FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Israeli armored columns have deployed in several areas in the Al-Biqa' valley, and the Israelis have told local inhabitants not to approach the cease-fire line, warning that they will fire at anyone disregarding this order, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, an IDF soldier was injured by a hand grenade attack on an Israeli patrol in An-Nabatiyah, according to Jerusalem radio. The situation in Beirut remained relatively calm, but several people were killed or injured in clashes between the Islamic Unification Movement and the pro-Syrian "Red Knights" in the northern city of Tripoli, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — The Security Arrangements Committee approved the "final plan" for the deployment of observers and the Higher Political Security Committee is expected to meet shortly to put the finishing touches on it, Beirut radio announced. In Damascus recent talks between Lebanese opposition leaders and Syrian officials achieved "noticeable progress" and could pave the way for the postponed Syrian-Lebanese summit, according to a Lebanese nationalist source cited by Radio Monte Carlo. The Lebanese Forces Command Council, in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, viewed favorably recent statements by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. The statement considered Junblatt's declaration that priority should be given to stopping the fighting as a positive move and described Birri's recent call for dialogue as sincere and a contribution to creating an atmosphere appropriate for dialogue, which must start with a cease-fire and not be linked to preconditions.

PLO Affairs

The leaders of the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party will not attend the meeting of Palestinian revolution factions in Algiers on 18 April, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf disclosed in a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM*. For the present, Khalaf observed, it is enough for representatives of the political bureaus of the four factions to attend. The Fatah official also remarked that the Algiers meeting has a better chance of succeeding than other meetings because it has Syria's blessing.

Soviet Diplomacy

Polyakov in Egypt — Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department, held talks in Cairo with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, MENA reported. They discussed Middle East and Lebanese developments and also examined ways to improve bilateral relations "in view of the mutual desire for such an improvement," MENA added.

Brutents in Syria — Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, discussed Soviet-Syrian cooperation during a meeting with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, SANA reported. Earlier, Brutents briefed Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' on his recent tour of several Arab countries, according to Damascus radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Any Egyptian plan to end the Iran-Iraq war is "not even mentionable," IRNA asserted, adding that Egypt, "Iraq's principal accomplice," is not qualified to present a peace plan. The agency's commentary charged that the "joint initiative by Washington and Cairo" had been sent to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement in a U.S. effort to discredit the movement. It expressed hope that the latter would disregard the plan and thus avoid becoming a "tool" in the hands of the United States. Iran has not been informed of the details of the plan, IRNA noted.

Iran

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri issued a statement thanking the Iranian people for their "orderly and all-round presence" in the Majlis elections, which once again proved their political and ideological maturity, Tehran radio reported. He called the people's attention to "rumors and lies" spread by "counterrevolutionary agents" and added that the security forces are "dutybound" to prosecute persons committing illegal acts on the pretext of supporting or opposing candidates.

Meanwhile, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported a "very low turnout" in the elections despite the extension of voting hours. The radio also spoke of "unrest" in Zahedan and Zabol, where people demonstrated against the regime and the elections.

FBIS

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Abu Mazin on Israeli Retaliation, PLO Activities

LD171307 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Rabat, 17 Apr (KUNA) — Member of the Fatah Central Committee Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, has warned Israel against striking at civilian Palestinian targets in Lebanon in retaliation for the recent Palestinian fedayeen operations deep inside the Zionist entity — an event which proves the falsehood of the Israeli security theory.

Abu Mazin warned that the Palestinian resistance will reply vehemently to an act of retaliation.

Abu Mazin was speaking during an interview with a KUNA correspondent in Morocco. He declared that the resistance has decided to transfer the conflict into the Zionist entity.

With regard to the meetings of the principal Palestinian resistance groups to begin in Algeria tomorrow, Abu Mazin said the aim is to pave the way for the 17th PNC session. He added that the Fatah movement is determined to thwart the efforts of those who want to annul the Palestinian legitimacy. He added that the Fatah movement is ready to discuss the forthcoming formula of the PLO Executive Committee with all except Ahmad Jibril and the dissenters, whom he called upon to set up an organization of their own. He said: We will cooperate with Ahmad Jibril in any future organizational committee.

Abu Mazin said that there is a formula for a unififed working paper among the resistance groups which provides for the rejection of Camp David and the Reagan plan and adherence to the Fes summit resolutions. There is also a clear relation with Jordan based on the joint statement issued by the two sides.

With regard to some organizational issues, he said that the Fatah movement is prepared to guarantee full participation by all in the PLO machinery.

Abu Mazin said that mediation between the Fatah movement and Syria has made great progress and that the USSR is exerting efforts — which he described as important — to contain the rift. Though this mediation has not achieved the desired result, it has made some progress.

It is recalled that the mediation began with the visit of the senior Soviet official Aliyev and is now being pursued by Karen Brutents.

Abu Mazin disclosed the existence of a Saudi mediation for the improvement of relations between Syria and the Palestinians. He said he expects a breakthrough in the next few weeks.

Replying to a question about the Islamic foreign ministers conference called for by Algeria, Abu Mazin said that the conference will be held this month and affirmed its importance. Abu Mazin also declared that a Fatah delegation led by Abu Iyad will visit Moscow on 25 April to pave the way for the official visit which Yasir 'Arafat will be paying to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet leaders.

About the possibilities for peace in the region, Abu Mazin said that the Reagan plan has ended and that the Arabs should act on the basis of the Fes peace plan. He added that a unified Arab dynamism can impose the Fes plan.

With regard to the American elections, Abu Mazin said they are a purely internal matter having no bearing on foreign policy. As for the Israeli elections, he said they will have no direct influence on policy in the regions.

Abu Mazin denied that preparations were being made for a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Vice President Dr Rif'at al-Asad. He said these reports were baseless. He said that any meeting that takes place will have to be a comprehensive one at the level of the Syrian and Palestinian leadership and will have to be in the open.

'Arafat Circular Urges Security Measures

JN170934 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has issued a circular to the PLO's bases, camps, and offices to take every security measure and precaution in anticipation of an Israeli aggression against the PLO's institutions in the wake of the meeting of the Israeli ministerial Committee on Security Affairs under the enemy's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and in the presence of Chief of Staff Moshe Levi.

During this meeting, decisions were made to carry out an aggression against the PLO's institutions. The Israeli security authorities have prevented the publication of any report regarding the results of this committee's meeting and the dimensions of its decisions.

The anticipated Israeli aggression is expected to include the Palestinian bases surrounding the occupied territory and those far from the occupied territory, such as in Tunis or the YAR.

PLO's Kamal Comments on PNC, Other Meetings

GF141302 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0743 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Ad-Dammam, 14 Apr (WAKH) — A Palestinian official said that the PNC meeting will be held in Algiers in the first half of May. He said: Fatah does not mind the dissidents attending the PNC meetings, but this must be after the PNC approves their representation in accordance with the rules and procedures followed for voting.

In an interview published in today's issue of the Saudi paper *AL-YAWM*, Sa'id Kamal, PNC member in Cairo, said the postponement of the PNC meeting is due to the fact that Fatah aims to have a purposeful discussion with all the Palestinian organizations, and that Fatah cannot follow the Palestinian arena without action by the leadership or without collective action that serves the Palestinian issue.

Mr Kamal added that it has been decided to organize a broad and popular Palestinian congress to be attended by all the Palestinian factions, committees, and figures in the Arab countries and abroad and to hold such a conference in Algiers prior to the PNC meetings. He said that the conference aims to enable the Palestinian people to express their support for the PLO and its legitimate institutions and to exercise their self-determination according to the UN Charter.

The first popular Palestinian congress was held in Cairo in 1972.

In reply to a question on the postponement of the conference on support for the Palestinian people in Cairo, Mr Kamal said: The postponement of the conference is a loss to U.S. However, the Palestinian leadership's concern at this stage is to concentrate on convening a PNC meeting so that the PNC remains strong and cohesive under the leadership of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In conclusion, the Palestinian official said: The most important topics that will be discussed at the PNC meeting are the election of the PLO Executive Committee, the assessment of the recent Tripoli events and their results, the assessment of Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] visit to Cairo and its consequences, and turning toward the Fes summit decisions within an international framework and through the UN Security Council and the United Nations.

'UKAZ Interviews Fatah's Al-Wazir

PM131100 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 11 Apr 84 p 6

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces Khalil al-Wazir — Abu Jihad — by Muhammad Mahjub in Jidda — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the purpose of your current tour of some Arab states?

Answer: During a recent Fatah Central Committee meeting it was decided to initiate some activity in the Arab arena. My mission was to go to Yemen to resume contacts and consultations with the various Palestinian sides before the next PNC session and also to exchange views with the officials of the two Yemens on the Palestinian cause, now the target of a plot aimed at impending and hindering the legitimacy and work of the PLO and its institutions.

The PLO, and Fatah as part of it, has through consultations with the other Palestinian factions been trying to confirm the date and nature of the next PNC session because it is urgently necessary in the present circumstances to hold such a session. Certain sides, however, have constantly been trying to prevent the continuity of the Palestinan institutions' work in an attempt to impose their hegemony and to paralyze Palestinian decisionmaking. Over the past few weeks, contacts have continued between Fatah and the DFLP and the PFLP. The dialogue has focused on the method to be followed to preserve the PLO and its independent decision. The two fronts asked for time to study Fatah's proposals in this connection. Much to our surprise, however, they issued a statement objecting to them. With patience and tolerance we are now continuing our dialogue with them to arrive at a common denominator to ensure the preservation of the PLO and its course's independence from the trusteeship and hegemony of any side thus ensuring the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking.

Question: When do you expect the dialogue to end and when will its results be announced?

Answer: The dialogue on this matter has indeed been going on for quite a long time. Our aim is to conclude it and to achieve specific results by next week. In the light of these results a date will be fixed for the PNC session.

Question: There are those who claim that the PLO's exit from Tripoli in fact marked the end of the PLO.

Answer: Yes, some people thought that would happen, but the truth is that in Tripoli we lost only one position. The resistance, however, emerged with its strength and political ability intact because it maintained its independent Palestinian national decision, which was the target. The aim of the Tripoli battles was to destroy the independent Palestinian decision. The departure from Tripoli with that determination and resolve was a triumph.

Question: But does the departure of the Palestinian forces from the areas of contact with Israel not indicate a significant decline in the Palestinian armed struggle?

Answer: First of all, the next phase requires more concentration on the main area of confrontation with Israel, which is the occupied Palestinian territory. There is determination to escalate the armed struggle continuously. Nobody thinks that the resistance would give up the armed struggle and its escalation for one moment. That is our continuous and uninterrupted policy. The continuation of operations inside the occupied territory is a practical manifestation of this policy. Add to this the successive operations carried out in southern Lebanon by the Lebanese participating directly or indirectly through cooperation and coordination with the Lebanese people, which is well known.

Question: Is there dialogue in progress between Fatah and Syria?

Answer: There is nothing new regarding relations between Fatah and Syria. There are no talks of any kind.

Question: What about your relations with Jordan and the future of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue?

Answer: We want our relations with Jordan to be normal and fraternal. We want this spirit to govern our relations with everyone. During its latest session in Algiers the PNC described these relations as special and distinguished, and it urged further strengthening of them to reflect the natural and historical ties between the two peoples who have been facing Zionist aggression for years. It is on this basis that past visits to Jordan have been made. At the conclusion of the talks there a clear and frank statement was issued underlining the main points of agreement between the two sides, which included development of relations, confirmation of recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, acknowledgement of the Fes resolutions as the basis of political action, confirmation of the support of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory for the PLO and its leadership, and determination to focus our attention on cooperation for the sake of backing up our Palestinian people's steadfastness against the Zionist aggression and terrorism in the occupied territory. Add to this the plan for joint political action at all levels. We are eager to continue to develop these relations, but we wish to point out unequivocally that development of our relations with Jordan does not mean that we are joining one Arab bloc against another. We just want to have normal relations with all the states of our Arab nation.

PFLP Official on 'National Salvation Program'

JN170905 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 84 pp 1, 3.

[By Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — A four-faction Palestinian alliance has announced a "national salvation programme" aimed at "thwarting attempts to split the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)" and called on "all patriotic Palestinian personalities and institutions" to adopt it.

Bassam Abu Sharif, official spokesman for the Damascus-based Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the eight factions under the PLO umbrella, told the *JORDAN TIMES* in a phone interview: "The national salvation programme aims at maintaining the unity of the PLO and preventing the organisation from endorsing schemes that are contradictory and even dangerous to our nationalist goals."

"We call on all the Palestinian personalities and institutions to endorse the national salvation programme," he said.

The "national salvation programme," formulated by the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party, calls for the formation of "a broad Palestinian nationalist front" within the PLO to "confront capitulatory strategies and American schemes."

Mr Abu Sharif, however, explained that the suggested front is not a "substitute to the PLO leadership" and "does not aim at forming a parallel organisation to the PLO."

"On the countrary, the front is meant to be a buffer to foil attempts to establish a substitute organisation for the PLO," he said. The suggested front would be "actually a coalition that includes all Palestinian forces to maintain the revolutionary line of the PLO," he said.

The five-page programme states that "after the departure of PLO forces from Beirut in 1982, the PLO has been a target of schemes which aimed at dragging it into capitulatory plans and undermining its legitimacy as the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

"The only way to counter these schemes," Mr Abu Sharif said, "is to restore the PLO's unity, to effect a practical commitment by all Palestinian forces to PLO resolutions and goals, and to escalate the armed struggle against the enemy."

The PFLP official's statement came amid reports of progress in preparations for a reconciliation meeting between Fatah, the mainstream commando group and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat power base, within the organisation, and the four-faction alliance.

The reconciliation meeting, expected to be held in Algiers next Wednesday and sponsored by Algiers and South Yemen, is expected to discuss ways to resolve the differences between Fatah and the other organisations over Mr 'Arafat's policies, especially his unexpected visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last December.

Mr Abu Sharif said that the main objective of the ongoing dialogue among the Palestinian factions is to restore Palestinian unity and foil efforts to establish a "substitute" Palestinian organisation to replace the PLO.

The reconciliation meeting will also pave the way for convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Mr Abu Sharif said that PFLP Secretary-General Abu 'Ali Mustafa and the DFLP Deputy Secretary-General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh will represent the four-faction alliance at the planned reconciliation meeting. Leaders of the Palestinian Communist Party and the PLF, which are not represented in the PLO Executive Committee, will also be present in Algiers but will not take a direct part in the meeting, Palestinian sources in Amman said.

Mr 'Arafat has calling for an immediate session of the PNC, but differences between the different factions have delayed his efforts. Mr Abu Sharif said that the PFLP favours an immediate PNC session, but "it is essential that all factions reach a comprehensive united programme before convening the PNC."

"The PLO's unity should be restored and an agreement should be [reached] prior to a PNC conference," Mr Abu Sharif said, "and this has to be done to avoid dangerous splits and rifts within the PNC."

According to Mr Abu Sharif, who is also the editor of the main PFLP publication, *AL-HADAf* magazine, said that despite "the setbacks that the PLO suffered since its departure from Beirut in 1982, recent development in the area are favourable to the PLO's revolutionary struggle."

He cited these favourable developments as "the failure of American policy in Lebanon, the Lebanese popular resistance that culminated in the abrogation of the May 17 withdrawal pact between Israel and Lebanon, commando operations against Israel in South Lebanon, the revolutionary uprise of people in the occupied Arab territories and the strong and principled support of the Soviet Union for the Palestinian struggle."

The PLO should take advantage of these "positive developments" to promote the national goals of the Palestinian people and to change the current balance of power in the region," Mr Abu Sharif said. "This can be done only by endorsing a revolutionary programme and stepping up the armed struggle," he added.

The PFLP has claimed responsibility for last Friday's commando operation in Israel which four Palestinians hijacked a bus from Tel Aviv to Rafah near the Egyptian border. The commandos, who kept 35 passengers of the bus hostage for 10 hours and demanded the release of 500 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, were shot by Israeli troops early Friday.

Mr Abu Sharif announced that the DFLP "will step up its commando operations" in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories because "armed struggle provides the only way to thwart capitulatory schemes and U.S. monopoly in the region." He said that "military operations strengthen the position of forces which reject capitulatory policies within the PLO."

The *JORDAN TIMES* was able to secure a copy of the "National Salvation Programme" which was submitted to the Fatah Central Committee. The programme calls for the formation of a "broad national front" within PLO to "mobilise and gather all patriotic forces and personalities who are opposed to the capitulation of work within the PLO, and to protect the organisation's unity and revolutionary line, to confront capitulatory methods and to foil efforts to split the PLO." It adds that the suggested front is not meant to be a substitute for the present PLO leadership. Following are translated excerpts from the programme:

The "broad nationalist front" is not a substitute leadership for the PLO and will not establish parallel institutions.

— A special working committee, that will include representatives of all factions and patriotic personalities and institutions that join the front, will administer the work of the front.

— The decisions of the committee will be based on consensus but in cases where consensus cannot be reached, each party can express independently its position.

— The committee will adopt a list to regulate its work including the formation of subcommittees. The "political objectives" of the national front are the following:

— The central task of the national front is to maintain and cherish the unity and the achievement of the PLO.

— Confrontation of all "capitulatory and deviation policies in all their aspects," including a strict condemnation of Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the adoption of "appropriate organisational measures" within the framework of the legitimate institution of the PLO.

— Commitment to the political and organisational programmes endorsed in the 14th session of the PNC and resolutions adopted in the 16th session, which was held in February 1983 in Algiers.

—Rejection of the principle of mandating or deputising any party to talk on behalf of the Palestinian people and refusal to share representation with any party.

— To establish Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the basis of the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions and the various related PNC resolutions.

Revival of the Palestinian National Front, which encompasses all Palestinian organisations inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, on the basis of "the revolutionary confrontation programme" of the PLO and working towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

— To defend the unity of the various popular and professional organisations in the occupied Arab territories.

— To work for comprehensive democratic reforms within the PLO and to combat corruption within its institutions.

— To form a collective leadership of the PLO, which will represent all factions and nationalist elements, as an organisational guarantee to secure and mantain the PLO's unity and the resolutions.

—To strengthen the "strategic alliance" with Syria to foster the common struggle against the Israeli occupation and American-Zionist hegemony schemes.

— To work jointly with Lebanese nationalist forces to step-up armed struggle against Israeli occupation in south Lebanon and to support Lebanon's struggle to reserve its independence, unity, Arab identity and democratic development.

— To regulate relations with Lebanese national forces to guarantee security for the Palestinians and PLO institutions in Lebanon.

To co-ordinate with the Soviet Union in efforts to restore the PLO's unity.

Voice of PLO Reports Anti-Israeli Operation

JN141720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have carried out a daring heroic operation against a Zionist forces' position in southern Lebanon. A high explosive-filled truck driven by a resistance man stormed the Zionist military position near the village of Dayr Qanun, close to the southern city of Tyre. The explosion resulted in completely destroying the position and killing or wounding all its occupants. Eyewitnesses said at least six Zionist soldiers were killed and two tanks destroyed in this operation. The eyewitnesses added that the invasion forces called up additional forces to cordon off the area and launched a futile large-scale campaign in search of the resistance men, whom the enemy believed were present in the area to supervise this heroic operation.

OPEC Followup Committee Meetings Postponed

GF141400 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 Apr (WAKH) — It has been decided to postpone the OPEC followup committee meetings, which were scheduled to be held in Vienna from 27 April to 6 May, owing to previous commitments of the ministers. This was reported today by Ash-Shibah al-Hamili, UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry under secretary. He said that the meetings, which will still be held in Vienna, will be preceeded by a meeting of the council of experts on 4 and 5 May.

BAHRAIN

UAE President's Remarks Show Arab Distress With U.S.

GF171019 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 17 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Apr (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has accentuated that the criticism made by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the U.S. policy comes within series of statements made the leaders of the region which unveil the genuine nature of the Washington's policy — a policy that is antagonistic to the Arab rights and aspirations and supportive of the aggression and massacres that are plotted against the Arabs.

The paper said that the statement of Shaykh Zayid on the United States, in which he indicated that it would lose its friends in the region if it went ahead in its policy, confirms that the relationship between the Arab countries and the United States is not an unbreakable Catholic wedding, but merely a relationship of interests that are reinforced to the extent that Washington recognizes the legitimate ambitions of the Arabs in development and in liberation.

The paper pointed out that what directs the U.S. policies in the region is the Zionist entity's interests, which are expansion and imposition of comprehensive coerciveness on the Arab nation. *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* said that despite the fact that the Arabs did their utmost to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States — until they got in return obstacles and death — the latter did not prove its sincerity in friendship with the Arabs. The paper pointed out that as the United States provides Israel with a sophisticated arsenal for aggression, which encourages Israel to expand into the Arab territories. These supplies made the Arabs purchase weapons in order to confront the aggression.

Concluding, the paper said that these are the facts about a bitter experience for the Arabs and it indicated that the time of delivery is nigh.

KUWAIT

U.S. State Department Official Murphy Arrives

LD170952 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Apr (KUNA) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy arrived in Kuwait today on a 24-hour visit within the framework of his current tour of the Middle East.

Mr Murphy, who arrived aboard a twin-engine small airplane, said that this was his first visit to Gulf state capitals since his appointment to his present post in September. He said that this is the first opportunity for him to return to Kuwait, which he visited in the early 1970's. He added that he will exchange views with officials on relations between the two countries and the situation in the region, and that he is looking forward to this visit with hope.

He expressed his satisfaction about the results of the talks he has had with officials in the states he has visited, occupied Palestine, Egypt, Qatar, and the UAE.

Commenting on a statement by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan that persistence in its present policies will cause the United States to lose many of its friends, Murphy said: The United States has many friends in the region, and we have ideas about how to make more friends and strengthen relations.

Mr Murphy will meet His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah as-Sabah, and will hold talks tomorrow with the Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid. U.S. delegation sources have refused to elaborate on Murphy's next move and on whether his current tour will include Syria.

He was welcomed on his arrival here from Abu Dhabi by the director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, Mr Mohamed Zayid al-Harbash; and by U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Philip Griffin.

It has been announced in Abu Dhabi that Shaykh Zayid had charged Murphy with an open letter calling on the United States to drastically alter its present Middle East policy, and to follow a just and unbiased policy if it wants to maintain its relations with its friends in the Arab region who have found shortcomings on its part toward their rights and its duties toward them.

Assembly Speaker Warns of Expanding Gulf War

GF171045 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[By Nabil Suwaidan]

[Excerpt] Kuwait was yesterday urged to be prepared for the worst eventuality from the Gulf war, with the government shouldering its responsibility and preparing citizens for dangerous developments.

National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani said the war was on Kuwait's doorstep and warnings of danger should be heeded. "I am not pessimistic, but I call for caution. Does the state have strategic reserves of foodstuffs, medicines and other items to meet any emergency? Does the war that is being waged at our borders not concern us? Should we not take a lesson from this situation to prepare our people for tomorrow as other countries do?" he asked.

Legislation in Kuwait should be designed to reduce citizens' dependence on the state and the country's dependence on one source of income, he told a news conference.

Dangerous developments in the war were causing concern for the US and other big powers, Al-Adsani said, adding that it was time Kuwait re-evaluated its situation in light of these developments. "What will happen if foreign forces intervene in the area? What will happen if the Hormuz Strait is closed while we depend on one source of income that can be reduced or affected?"

Al-Adsani said that people talked of the Manakh crisis as if it was the biggest crisis to face the country, but he said it was "a problem concerning only 8,000 people. It is an economic crisis that can be solved. But what we are now facing is the question of the fate of the Kuwaiti people as a whole, not just some of them."

Citizens must be made to realise that they are at the battlefront: "Citizens sleep to the noise of artillery when they spend their weekends only 160 kms from the front," he said.

Al-Adsani expressed his sorrow over the four-year-old war for which there was no solution in sight. And he warned that there could be no solution without the intervention of the big powers. "This is clear from the moves of special forces into the area, the focussing of threats to intervene to secure shipping movement and sources of energy. All these issues show that there are intentions to intervene," he said.

National Bank Calls for Strategy To Cure Economy

GF171049 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[By economic reporter]

[Text] A medium- and long-term development strategy was vital if Kuwait was to overcome the problems besetting its economy, according to the National Bank. In its April bulletin the bank says the government must plan its future strategy and also take steps to overcome the current recession.

The development strategy should take into account the country's commitments within the GCC, projected trends in the oil market, and the diversification of its economic base, with its implication on the country's social structure.

The bank said that the financial sector was still suffering the effects of the Manakh crisis, which it said had built up a negative psychology in business circles. External factors, including the Gulf war, had also contributed to destabilizing the economy.

In the short-term, the prospects for economic recovery depended largely on the government's actions to alleviate the pressure on the business atmosphere. Two issues were vital, it said: a speedy settlement to the Manakh crisis and a more selective fiscal policy aimed at specific economic sectors.

A modest economic recovery could materialize during the second half of this year, but this would depend on the stability of the oil market, further progress in the Manakh crisis and a new fiscal policy, it said. The end of the Gulf war would give greater impetus to the recovery and boost business confidence, the bank said.

On the country's economic performance last year, the bank said there was remarkable success in combatting inflation and keeping consumer prices down. The consumer price index rose by less than 1 percent in the first half of last year, compared with 5 percent in the same period in 1982. The wholesale price index fared even better, with prices down by 2.8 percent during the first six months of the year.

Greater emphasis was also put on stabilizing the labour market with new regulations on expatriate workers entering the country. But the acute shortage of Kuwaiti workers persisted, with expatriates making up 80 percent of the workforce in the private sector and 60 percent in the public sector.

The government suspended the appointment of non-Kuwaiti civil servants, and figures showed there had been some improvement, with the ratio of Kuwaiti to total civil servants rising to 35 percent by January 1983 compared to 33.7 percent in March 1982.

Official Discusses Detention Procedures for Suspects

GF151430 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Apr 84 p 6

[By 'A'ishah Shaykh ad-Din]

[Text] Suspects could be held in custody in Kuwait without being charged for only 21 days, the director-general of the General Investigation Department, Yusuf Muhammad Salih, said. He added that certain conditions must be met and the detention could be ordered only by the director of investigations.

In an interview with *AS-SIYASAH* he said that investigators were transferred from one area to another to broaden their experience and make them aware of the problems in different places. Salih said many women worked in the department, but not at police stations.

He said that investigators could prevent people from leaving the country to ensure their presence during a trial, and the ban remained effective until the judgement was carried out.

Speaking about the problem created by identical names in the case of bans, he said the Interior Ministry realised this problem and had arranged for more details to be provided on detention application forms, including fingerprints and photographs.

Salih said the residence law for expatriates said that deportation of an expatriate included dependent family members, but this could be decided by the interior minister.

OMAN

Austrian Foreign Minister Lanc Arrives in Country

GF161844 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc, heading an official delegation, arrived in the country this evening on a 6-day visit to the Sultanate. During his visit he will meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

During the visit, the guest will also hold talks with a number of senior officials that will focus on reinforcing current relations and on the means to strengthen them, and also on a number of current Arab and international issues.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Foreign Minister 'Abdallah

GF161034 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Oman met with Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, on 15 April. They discussed issues of mutual interest and the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Revolution.

During the meeting, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized the need to condemn the Iraqi regime for using chemical weapons and called on all area countries to react to this crime by Saddam.

QATAR

Finance Minister Discusses Amir's Asian Tour

GF161852 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Doha, 16 Apr (WAKH) — Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani said that the talks to be held by H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani during his Asian tour will include bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war and the Middle East situation.

In a statement to the Qatari press, the minister said that on his tour he would get acquainted with the energy needs of the four countries due to be visited by H.H. the Amir of Qatar. He also said that he would hold talks with top oil officials in these countries on their possible contribution to the north gas-well project in Qatar, whose importance he underlined by indicating that the State of Qatar would be dependent on this project for the next three decades.

The Qatari minister said that his country was taking the threat of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz seriously and expressed hope for a peaceful end to the Iraqi-Iranian war, saying that Qatar and the rest of the Gulf states were exerting efforts to end the war.

SAUDI ARABIA

Further Reports on Visit of Austrian Foreign Minister

King Fahd Receives Lanc

LD161702 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Apr (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc and the delegation accompanying him in his office this afternoon. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Austrian Ambassador to the Kingdom Anton Prohaska; Saudi Ambassador to Austria Yusuf Matbaqani, and the West Europe desk chief at the Foreign Ministry, Ma'mun Qabani.

Lanc Departs 16 Apr

LD161705 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Apr (SPA) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc and his accompanying delegation left Riyadh this afternoon after an official visit to the Kingdom in the context of his current tour of a number of states of the region.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Arrives in Riyadh, Met by Yamani

LD161312 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1133 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Apr (SPA) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah arrived this afternoon in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom, during which he will have talks with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ahmad Zaki Yamani, who was at the airport to receive him.

Shamir Appeal to Settlers Seen Masking Reality

LD142228 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The enemy prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, appealed to the settlers in occupied Palestine not to be affected by the increasing Palestinian resistance campaigns which began to constitute a fright factor imposing itself on the Jewish settlers.

The increasing intensity of Palestinian resistance inside the occupied homeland has become a fright factor to the Jewish settler who felt the ground shaking under his feet after the resistance carried out a number of daring operations inside Jerusalem and other places where the enemy had been confident of his invulnerability to the Palestinian resistance.

When the matter reaches the point when the enemy prime minister appeals to his fellow countrymen not to go along with the feeling of fright which has become the common denominator in their life, this means that the fallacy of security and its invulnerable fence that deny any power is a reality which the enemy prime minister could not ignore. He tried to appeal to his fellow countrymen not to let feelings of fright dominate their daily life.

As regards the issue of the Palestinian resistance reaching the heart of the enemy, the reaction to its effects on the life of the Jewish settler inside occupied Palestine could be the emergence of urgent thinking on the part of the settlers who live on Palestine's soil to find a path of salvation or safety from the unknown fate by resorting to emigrating from this hell.

However, the repercussions on the Jewish immigrant who is waiting his turn to migrate to the occupied territories could be to cause him to think twice before travelling to occupied Palestine, and this means that the primary tributary of manpower to this entity will start to shrink, which will constitute a fatal blow to the Jewish presence in Palestine. Hence, the anxiety of the enemy's authorities to minimize the outcome of the fedayeen operations and conceal the number of wounded or killed, and the distortion of facts to contain the reactions locally and abroad.

However, the Jewish settler and the would-be immigrant who awaits his turn to come to occupied Palestine are now aware of the reality of the distortion operations by the enemy authorities. Therefore, the settler and the Jewish immigrant were not affected by the appeal of the enemy prime minister, because the real facts make what Shamir says a sort of illusion and untrustworthy.

UAE

U.S. State Department Official Visits Abu Dhabi

Murphy Meeting With President

GF161436 Doha QNA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Apr (QNA) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has called on the United States to pursue a fair and unbiased policy in the Middle East and to radically change its current policy if it is really interested in maintaining its friends who receive nothing positive from this policy.

During a meeting with Mr Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, this afternoon, his highness said that if the United States does not change its current policy it should not expect to have friends, because its friends suffer from U.S. negligence of their rights, in spite of U.S. justifications regarding its recent position in Lebanon and its unfulfilled promises. His Highness Shaykh Zayid said that the United States has to reconsider its previous policy if it really wants to have friends and if it really wants to maintain its interests, based on the fact that strengthening friends is a necessity.

A responsible source said that the current Arab and international situation, Middle East crisis, situation in the region, and bilateral relations were reviewed during the meeting. Arab diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi said that the U.S. official's tour of a number of the region's states is aimed at hearing the views of the officials in these states regarding the events in the region, foremost of which are the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian issue and the situation in Lebanon.

These sources told the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi that the United States strives through this tour in the first place to discover the means which are capable of bringing an end to the Iraq-Iran war and the possibility of taking part in international efforts which are being exerted to bring about a basis for settling the Iraqi-Iranian dispute that can be accepted by the two parties.

Meeting With Defense Minister

GF161850 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Dubai, 16 Apr (WAKH) — UAE Minister of Defence Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid today received here Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of State, who is currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by George Lumsden, the U.S. ambassador to the UAE.

Zayid Message for Reagan

GF170834 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0705 GMT 17 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 Apr (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-BAYAN* has stressed that "the message which the president relayed to the U.S. envoy for President Reagan expresses clearly that the Arabs are exceedingly impatient with the biased U.S. policy toward Israel, which reflects full animosity toward their legitimate rights and interests."

The paper referred editorially to one of the numerous examples of the U.S. aligned policy toward Israel within the framework of the strategic cooperation between the two countries. The paper went on to say that the recent move of the Salvadoran Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was inspired by the United States. Moreover, it succeeded in satisfying Israel and soothing those in the Congress opposed to the aid which the U.S. President requested for the Government of El Salvador. The paper asserted that had it not been for U.S. aid to the Government of El Salvador, this government would have not been able to demonstrate steadfastness in the confrontation of the escalating armed revolution.

In conclusion, the paper accentuated that with these positions the United States is losing all its friends in the Arab homeland. The paper pointed out that this is what the president expressed in his meeting with the U.S. assistant secretary of state when he said: "If the United States does not radically amend its current policy, then it should not expect to have any friends, because its friends have found out that the United States has been extremely derelict with regard to their rights."

Departure for Kuwait

GF170625 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Apr (WAKH) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, left Abu Dhabi today for Kuwait after concluding a 1-day visit to the UAE as part of his tour to a number of Arab countries. During his visit, Murphy met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and a number of officials.

Austrian Vice Chancellor Arrives in Dubayy

GF161110 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Arab countries would become a force to reckon with in international politics if they were able to solve their own problems without seeking outside help, according to Austrian Vice-Chancellor Norbert Steger.

Mr Steger, who arrived in Dubayy yesterday on a week-long private visit, said Austria would continue with its efforts to solve the Middle East problems as a crisis in this region had a far-reaching impact not only on Europe but the entire world. "But it is not possible for a small and neutral country like ours to solve such a big problem on its own," he said. "We can only call upon the big powers to heed the problem."

Mr Steger said Austrian efforts in the Middle East, which are strictly within the limits of its neutral policy, had proved positive. Explaining his country's Middle East policy, the vice-chancellor, who is on his first visit to this region, said in Austria's opinion the problem could be solved if the U.S. accepted the legitimacy of the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to their homeland.

Mr Steger said he would be seeing some high officials in the UAE during his stay, but declined to give details. He said he would be making an official visit to the Gulf in late September when he is due to visit Saudi Arabia and some other countries.

The vice-chancellor, who is also the party chairman and holds the portfolios of trade, economy and tourism, predicted increased trade between the UAE and Austria in the near future.

On the prospects of Austrian tourists visiting the UAE, he said, "The fact that I am here on a holiday means this place is good for tourism." He added the UAE needed to be projected properly as a tourist destination in his country.

President Receives YAR Foreign Minister Al-Asbahi

GF161426 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Apr (WAKH) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received at noon today YAR Foreign Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting they generally reviewed current developments in the Arab world, the situation in the region and bilateral relations, and means of developing and bolstering them.

Abu Dhabi Council Urges Conscription for Youths

GF161103 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] of Abu Dhabi has proposed that all able-bodied nationals should undergo special courses in military training, and all national young men who have abandoned their studies should undergo compulsory military training. The NCC decided to refer its proposals to the Executive Council.

At its fortnightly session held yesterday, presided over by the chairman, Shaykh Sultan ibn Surur ad-Dahiri, the council also discussed the possibility of employing prisoners in national development projects.

The NCC had discussed the military training issue at its last session. A special committee comprising Muhammad ibn Brook, Ahmad ibn Hadir, Muhammad ibn Jabir and Mubarak ibn 'Abdallah was then formed to discuss the issue and make proper recommendations. The committee proposals which were passed unanimously by the council yesterday called upon the government to make special arrangements to see that all able-bodied nationals undergo military training.

The second proposal dealt with the conscription of those youths who have abandoned their studies. The NCC proposal quoted a well known verse from the Holy Quran, calling upon the faithful to be always prepared (to fight in the way of God) and to be on guard against the enemy.

A proposal made by Mr Brook, regarding the employment of prisoners on development project, was turned down after a lengthy debate, by the NCC chairman, who indicated that the issue required more study.

The NCC was also briefed on a report from its legal and legislative committee on the results of its meeting with the minister of justice, 'Abdallah al-Mazru'i, to discuss the problem of delays in settling certain cases and decided to postpone discussions on this subject until its next meeting. The legal committee's report attributed the delays to the severe shortage of staff and other administrative problems.

The report indicated that the Ministry of Justice was taking a number of measures to accelerate settlement of cases, among which were encouragement of locals to work in courts and setting up of a court of appeal in Al-'Ayn.

The minister of justice said that last year in Abu Dhabi, out of 9,378 cases, 7,600 were decided, and in Al-'Ayn out of 5,121 cases, 4,752 were decided.

The highest number of cases handled related to traffic offences, which accounted for 99.3 per cent of the total cases.

Suicide Operations Said Key to Victory Over Israel

GF141040 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0612 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 Apr (WAM) — Under the headline "The People's War," the Ash-Shariqah newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* said that the suicidal operations have demonstrated that the human being is the biggest and strongest strategic weapon for inflicting final defeat upon the Israelis and the enemies of the Arab nation.

The newspaper said that the voice of the people rose up the day before yesterday in the heart of Palestine, which has been occupied since 1948. The same happened in occupied southern Lebanon. It added that the people's voice rose up to say that the enemy is one, the occupation is one, and the way to end it is one.

The paper stressed that the people's fight, which lacks all the Zionist military equipment and U.S. technology, is an option that cannot be confronted by all of the agencies, no matter how organized or well-reputed, such as the Mosad, the Shin Bet, and the rest of the Zionist intelligence service which provides it with information and analyses.

The newspaper pointed out that the people's fight finished off the 6-day war tune in 1982 [words indistinct], and added that terrorist Shamir expects after these operations that there is no way for the elimination of the fedayeen activity. The newspaper said that the Arab people in southern Lebanon and in occupied Palestine present us with the perfect solution, referring to the Lebanese who hurled his grenade to destroy two enemy tanks and to inflict losses upon its troops. It said all the enemy's weapons did not deter him or the Palestinian youth who jumped into the driver's seat of a bus and was martyred while trying to drive it.

The newspaper asked: "Were the British warships stronger than Jul Jamal? [as received] Was Camp David stronger than Khalid al-Islambuli? Was the United States stronger than the youth who exploded the headquarters of the command of its forces in Beirut?" It answered: "No! Man is the most dutiful and the strongest weapon." The newspaper called for opening the borders to whoever wishes to be martyred in order to defeat the enemy.

PDRY

YAR Official Brings Salih Message for Al-Hasani

GF161227 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Brother Lieutenant Colonel Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Standing Committee and adviser to the president for unity affairs in the northern part of the homeland, arrived in Aden from San'a' today.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Ad-Daf'i said that he is carrying a message for Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, dealing with issues of interest to both parts of the homeland and Arab and international issues, especially the Palestinian issue.

Al-Hasani Receives Message

GF161616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today Brother Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Standing Committee and adviser to the president for unity affairs in the northern part of the homeland, who conveyed to him a message from his brother Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, dealing with relations of unity coordination between the two parts, the implementation of the unity agreements in various fields and current Arab issues.

AAPSO Secretary General Arrives in Aden

GF161614 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Brother Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzaq, AAPSO secretary general, arrived in Aden today on a visit to our country which will last for several days, during which he will hold talks with brother officials in the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council on the forthcoming meetings of the organization that are scheduled to convene in Algeria next month. He will also discuss means to confront the plots aimed at undermining relations among the Asian and African peoples and the struggle of the Asian, African and international liberation movements.

Ghali, Soviet Official Discuss Bilateral Relations

NC161202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Vladimir Vladimirovich Polyakov, director of the Middle East Desk at the USSR Foreign Ministry and former Soviet ambassador to Cairo. They discussed Middle Eastern and Lebanese developments as well as other international issues. They also examined ways to improve bilateral relations in view of the mutual desire for such an improvement.

The Soviet official arrived in Cairo late last night on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Mubarak Sends Letters to Leaders on Gulf War

NC162128 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent letters to the leaders of India, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Bangladesh within the framework of Egyptian diplomatic moves to end the Gulf war. These letters will be conveyed by Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, assistant foreign minister, and Ambassador 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Ribi, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department.

New Message to Gandhi

NC161456 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today sent a new message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

MENA has learned that the message falls within the framework of Egypt's current intensive efforts and President Mubarak's initiative to end the Iraq-Iran war through the Nonaligned Movement.

It is known that President Mubarak and Mrs Gandhi earlier had exchanged messages and views on the Nonaligned Movement's efforts to end this war.

'Ali Criticizes Salvadoran Embassy Transfer

NC161420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said Egypt regards the transfer of the Salvadoran Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as an unfriendly act that tends to determine a final status for Jerusalem, despite the fact that the Jerusalem issue is one of the principal points of dispute between Egypt and Israel and that this subject is also a point for negotiations.

He said this matter is a violation of UN resolutions and international agreements stating that Jerusalem is part of the territories that were occupied by force in the 1967 aggression. Kamal Hasan 'Ali decided to summon the Salvadoran ambassador in Cairo to the Foreign Ministry tomorrow to communicate Egypt's stand and view on this matter.

Senegalese Information Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC162134 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Djibo Laity Ka, Senegalese information minister arrived in Cairo this evening on an official 5-day visit. He will hold talks on strengthening bilateral cooperation in information and on the preparation of a protocol for cooperation between Egypt and Senegal to promote relations in the information field and to exchange radio and television programs.

'Ali Meets Tel Aviv Embassy Charge d'Affaires

NC161429 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad Basyuni, charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. They reviewed the situation in the area and Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Ghali Describes Peace With Israel as 'Cold'

NC131508 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Geneva, 13 Apr (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has described the current peace between Egypt and Israel as a "cold peace" and said Israel must work to find a new basis that will allow confidence in its intentions.

At a news conference held today at the end of his visit to Geneva, Dr Ghali said in order to achieve this confidence, Israel must withdraw from Lebanon and improve the conditions of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza so that the Palestinians can contribute to the peace march. Dr Ghali emphasized that no progress can be made in the peace march without improving the present conditions of the Palestinians. If this were not done, it could encourage extremist actions. He said our aim is to strengthen the Palestinian moderates, and this can only be done by giving the Palestinians something tangible to help them participate in the peace process and avoid further Palestinian extremism.

Answering a question on the crisis concerning Tabah, on the Egyptian-Israeli border, Dr Ghali said that in accordance with Article 7 of the peace treaty, this crisis must be solved either by conciliation or by international arbitration. However, Israel continues to object to this.

Replying to a question on the Egyptian initiative to end the Iraq-Iran war, Dr Ghali said this initiative is being undertaken within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement because the two countries are members of this movement. The aim is to reach a solution, even a temporary one, that allows for a cease-fire and that would be a prelude to additional measures.

Regarding the Lebanese crisis, Dr Ghali said Egypt believes a solution to this crisis should come through reconciliation among all the parties. The Geneva and Lausanne conferences allowed the Lebanese leaders to sit together and hold a serious discussion of their problem. This is positive, and Egypt supports more contacts among the Lebanese parties.

Regarding Egypt's role in the OAU during the past 3 years, Dr Ghali said Egypt's role during that period focused on preventing the OAU's disintegration, since it is the framework for dialogue among presidents and officials, and a venue for solving disputes through peaceful means.

Regarding the next African summit, Dr Ghali said the African leaders had made a decision to hold this summit in Conakry. This decision must be respected, but the present government in Guinea must state whether it is prepared to host the African summit.

Dr Ghali said if the present Guinean Government cannot host this summit, then contacts must be made among African leaders to find another venue for the conference.

In his news conference, Dr Ghali explained that Egypt's influence in the Islamic and Arab worlds is independent of its membership in the ICO or in the Arab League. He pointed out that thousands of students from the Islamic world are studying in holy Al-Azhar University and in other Egyptian universities. There are also more than 3 million Egyptians working in the Arab world, in addition to Arab investors in Egypt.

Dr Ghali arrived in Geneva on 10 April from Luxembourg after attending the meetings of the Egyptian-EEC Cooperation Committee. He is due to return to Cairo this evening.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Israeli Settlements Policy

PM161431 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Apr 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Peace and the Building of Settlements"]

[Text] The United Nations once called on Israel to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. It was a UN majority resolution supported by most world states. When reporters asked Abba Eban, the former Israeli foreign minister, about possible Israeli reaction to world public opinion's overwhelming verdict, he said something which has epitomized Israeli political strategy since its birth. He said: "I do not care about world public opinion. There are states which have won world public opinion support but lost their independence. Israel is not interested in winning world public opinion support."

In line with that strategy Israel yesterday announced plans to build five new settlements in the Arab territories occupied by Israeli forces. It also announced that it plans to build more and more settlements. Israel will definitely carry out that policy regardless of world public opinion.

The United States has, as Israel's staunchest ally, urged it to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories because the settlements constitute a real obstacle to peace. The European states, which are second only to the United States in their support for Israel, have also called on Israel to stop building settlements which obstruct peace. But Israel paid no attention to European public opinion which supported Israel in past crises. It also ignored UN calls for an end to the building of settlements.

This intransigent attitude indicates that Israel is swimming against the tide, that it does not understand the course of history, and that it does not care about the future. History has taught us that no state has ever managed to survive by waging war, using force, usurping rights, occupying and colonizing territory, and displacing people.

We tell Israel that the building of settlements in the occupied territories is a catastrophe for peace, a catastrophe for Arab-Israeli relations, and a catastrophe for Israel's future.

We urge the Israeli leaders to stop building settlements, in the interest of peace in the Middle East — peace which we all aspire to and long for, and which fulfills everyone's rights, a peace of good neighborliness. Do the Israeli leades know what we mean?

Oman: 'UMAN Interviews Petroleum Minister

GF162000 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 15 Apr 84 P 5

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Ahamad 'Izz ad-Din Hasan Hilal by *'UMAN* correspondent 'Abd al-'Atti Muhammad — place, date not given]

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-'Atti Muhammad: There are Iranian threats to close the Strait of Hormuz. Do you think this can really happen? If it occured even for a short period, what influence can it have on oil prices?

'Izz ad-Din: The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most important waterways for international trade, particularly the transportation of oil from some Gulf states, including Iran itself. Iran previously has made such threats during the war with Iraq.

In my view, if Iran closes the strait, this measure will, in the first place jeopardize its own interests, at a time when it needs oil exports in order to meet war expenses. If we assume that Iran will actually implement its threats, the closure of the strait will not last long.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,437 - 16 April

JN161625 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,437 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 16 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their heroic confrontation of the rancorous Iranian regime's forces. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units engaged the enemy positions and vehicles opposite our positions in the operational area east of Basra, killing or wounding several troops and destroying two vehicles.

2. Using all types of weapons, one of our forward units carried out an operation against the enemy positions in front of our positions east of Basra, killing or wounding several troops.

3. Two were killed, one medium machine gun was destroyed and its crew killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

4. One was killed, and one hardware stockpile and one weapons emplacement were destroyed in the Maysan sector. Those manning the weapons emplacement were killed.

5. Last night and today, the criminal Khomeyniite enemy shelled Mandali and Ash-Shihabi and their environs with heavy artillery, destroying two houses in Ash-Shihabi and damaging one house in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 April 1984.

Baghdad TV Comments on Iran-Israel Collusion

GF131300 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 0900 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Muslim brothers and sisters of Iran. It is not very difficult to gauge the extent of the close collusion of world Zionism and world-devouring imperialism with the Khomeyni regime.

The dispatch of arms by Israel and similarly the unstinting support by Uncle Sam to Khomeyni is in itself an obvious example. Let us skip the story of Khomeyni and his clique and his liberal dependence on powers such as the United States in Iran which will be (?discussed later).

On every occasion when Israel intiates an aggressive usurpist act in the area, the Tehran and Qom regime immediately synchronizes its activities with it. The imperialistic mass media these days have begun a series of programs against Iraq and Israel also [words indistinct] has confirmed the same.

The regime of Iran, that is the Islamic Republic, is conniving and collaborating with Israel. The echelons of the two regimes of Israel and Iran should know that Iraq is not untried nor asleep, nor away; nor is it a tottering willow before the trend of events.

SFRY's Dragan, Delegation Arrive for Talks

JN132016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA) — Zvone Dragan, SFRY Federal Executive Council vice president, arrived here tonight heading an SFRY delegation on a visit of a few days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Dragan said that he will attend the meetings of the Iraqi-SFRY committee for joint cooperation which will convene tomorrow to discuss strengthening and developing cooperation between Iraq and the SFRY. He added that he will exchange views with Iraqi officials on the political and economic issues that concern the two countries.

Joint Committee Meets

JN141551 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad — Meetings of the ninth session of the Iraqi-SFRY joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation began at the Trade Ministry today. These meetings are a follow-up of the talks which were held in Belgrade last February. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, led the Iraqi side, and Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, led the SFRY side.

Dragan expressed his confidence that the two countries' economic and technical cooperation will continue to develop further.

This morning, Hasan 'Ali received Zvone Dragan and his delegation and reviewed with him the various aspects of cooperation in the economic and trade fields. The meeting was attended by 'Abd at-Tawwab al-Mulla Huwaysh, first under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Meets With Dragan

JN151335 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister has met with Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in all spheres for the common interests of both friendly people.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Zvone Dragan expressed satisfaction over the developing relations between Iraq and the SFRY whose bases were established by President Saddam Husayn and President Tito. They also discussed the topics on the agenda of the ninth session of the Iraqi-SFRY Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation which is currently being held in Baghdad.

They reviewed the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Arab and international situation, and means of strengthening and activating the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the service of peace and progress.

Saddam Husayn Receives Dragan

JN161119 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Hsuayn received here today Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council. They discussed bilateral relations and the means of promoting them to serve the joint interests of the two friendly peoples. The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; the president's secretary; and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Cooperation Minutes Signed

JN161934 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) — Iraq and SFRY signed the minutes of an agreement on economic cooperation at the end of the ninth meeting of the Iraqi-SFRY joint committee for the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation which began here last Sunday.

The minutes include the means of bolstering economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, trade exchange, and the measures on which both sides agreed during the committee's meetings that were held in Belgrade last February.

Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, signed the minutes for the Iraqi side; and Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, signed for the SFRY side.

Dragan, Delegation Depart 16 Apr

JN161940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) — Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Bagdhad tonight at the end of a visit to Iraq. During this visit, Dragan headed his country's delegation to the meetings of the ninth session of the Iraqi-SFRY joint committee for the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

In a press statement, Dragan said: In our meetings with our Iraqi friends in the joint committee, we were able to affirm the continuation of the developing relations in all spheres. We signed minutes and a protocol which include matters related to economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, as well as to new areas of cooperation considering the circumstances through which our friend Iraq is passing due to the war.

Dragan Interviewed by ATH-THAWRAH

JN170743 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0542 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — A senior Yugoslav official has asserted that his country supports Iraq's peaceful stands, and appreciates its agreement on the international initiatives to end the war. In a statement to the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH*, Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, who left Baghdad yesterday, said that the SFRY is exerting great efforts to end the war as soon as possible and to begin negotiations to solve outstanding problems. He said that the SFRY does not approve of the continuation of the war because it constitutes a hotbed of serious crises that threaten world peace. He called for intensive international efforts to create circumstances that are conducive to a cease-fire, and to convince those powers that believe that war is the only means of solving the dispute between the two countries, that negotiations are the only correct means to realize this.

Dragan said that he had delivered a letter to President Saddam Husayn yesterday from the SFRY state presidency dealing with strengthening joint cooperation and the means of promoting it in order to serve the two friendly peoples. The letter also deals with the Iraqi-Iranian war developments and the SFRY's role in efforts to end it.

On the meetings of the Iraqi-SFRY joint committee, which ended yesterday, Dragan said that they were aimed at strengthening ties and continuing the two countries cooperation in the economic, scientific, and technical fields. He added: These meetings were very useful. They were characterized by both sides' complete understanding of each other's economic circumstances.

Dragan explained thqt the two sides agreed on the need to create circumstances that are conducive to speeding up the work of the SFRY companies and establishments in Iraq and promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, irrigation, and agriculture.

Ramadan Opens Arab Justice Ministers Session

JN161236 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) — The second session of the Arab Justice Ministers Council began here today and will last for 3 days. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, opened the meetings on behalf of President Saddam Husayn.

In his opening speech, Ramadan affirmed that Iraq would support any Arab effort that helps to create a unified Arab stand. He said that this session is particularly significant due to the current complicated and grave circumstances surrounding the Arab homeland.

Ramadan explained that social security and justice will lose a lot of their values as long as Arab rights are not achieved and the just Arab issues are not recognized. He emphasized that the Arab people's struggle throughout the Arab homeland in defense of honor, sovereignty, and a better life and future contributes to entrenching Arab rights. He stressed the need to build basic Arab legislation on a strong social basis and to create one Arab mentality on the basis of building the one Arab homeland.

Ramadan spoke about the Palestine question, affirming Iraq's commitment to the Arabism of Palestine and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, Ramadan spoke about Iraq's experience with all international peace efforts and Iran's insistence on continuing the war. He noted the increasing coordination and strategic alliance between the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime to achieve their joint objectives against the Arab nation. He affirmed Khomeyni's link with Zionism and imperialism, explaining that his claims about liberating Jerusalem and his concern about the land of Palestine are only attempts to cover up his link with the racist Zionists, who evicted the Palestinians from their land. He explained that the Tehran regime and the Zionist entity are cooperating in order to implement a criminal plan against Iraq's industrial and scientific installations. This plan aims at distracting attention from the imminent aggression, which the Khomeyniites are preparing to invade Iraq's international border. He emphasized Iraq's ability to retaliate appropriately and readiness to deter aggression.

Ramadan noted the cooperation of both the Syrian and Libyan regimes with the Zionist-Persian alliance saying that they had signed a statement with the Iranian regime in which they expressed their stand supporting the aggression against the Iraqi territories. He addressed the ministers of justice: You must assess your just responsibilities toward these two regimes and their stand against your brothers and the Arab nation's objectives.

Ramadan spoke about the numerous laws that were enacted in Iraq since the 17 July 1968 revolution and described them as having achieved a revolution of legislation in Iraq that has taken place simultaneously with the democratic, social, and economic developments. He noted that Iraq has called continuously for establishing a council of Arab ministers of justice and for strengthening Arab cooperation in the legal and judicial fields.

Concluding his speech, Ramadan expressed his hope for the success of this session in order to add a new momentum to the serious and objective Arab efforts.

Minister on Women, Foreign Laborers in Work Force

GF151546 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 12 Apr 84 P 5

[Fatimah Mansur report]

[Excerpt] Iraqi Labor and Social Affairs Minister Babkr Mahmud Rasul has expressed satisfaction over the progress of social work and training of youth in his country. He affirmed that these programs have not been affected by the war with Iran.

In an interview with the *AL-ANBA'* correspondent, the Iraqi minister denied that Iraq has fears over Asian labor in Iraq. National and Arab labor constitutes the main labor force Iraq is using in implementing development projects whereas Asians represent an insignificant number, he said. He expected the Gulf countries to always try to replace the Asian and foreign labor with trained national and Arab labor.

Rasul indicated that development projects in Iraq have not stopped because of the war and that development plans are now a direct factor in enhancing Iraq's position in its just war by increasing national production and supplying factories with trained nationals and native expertise. He noted that the labor sector has been affected because a great number of laborers, peasants, and trained workers went to the battle front. The use of working women and the laborers' free overtime in solidarity with the state to face the aggression have overcome the expected difficulties.

The minister affirmed that the ministry's budget has not been directly affected by the continuation of the war. The ministry continues to build welfare centers for mothersand institutes for the disabled and improve the present welfare centers for mothers without paying any attention to entertainment facilities at present, he said.

As for the family care fund, he added, the state continues to grant retirement salaries for needy families and for families unable to work.

The Iraqi minister affirmed that there are 32,000 women currently working for free, a thing which has enabled the ministry to retain its budget.

Tehrani Says Khomeyni Wants To Become New Shah

JN161618 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad — Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Tehrani, an Iranian clergyman who opposes the Khomeyniite regime, has emphasized that Khomeyni has not worked for Islam but to become a new shah in Iran. Speaking over the Iraqi radio and television stations in Persian today, he said that Khomeyni contradicts himself and is two-faced when he talks to the people because he is deluding himself and imagining things in order to maintain power.

He added that war with Iraq is the result of Khomeyni's contradictions and delusions, which are aimed at exporting his heresies and trickery.

These things led to further shedding of the Iranian people's blood and to an increase in the number of the crippled. He indicated that only the Iranian people are afflicted by the war, which Khomeyni and his henchmen want to continue so that they can live with their children enjoying abundant riches and riding around in armored cars with bodyguards in fear of the masses' punishment.

He then talked about the Khomeyniite regime's looting of the Iranian people's wealth and transferring the oil revenues to the Zionist entity, brokers, and smugglers in order to continue the war. He called on all of the Iranian oil company workers to abstain from cooperating with the regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Tehrani stressed that the Khomeyniite regime is still sending boys who are 12-14 years old to the battlefronts. He said that the coming generations will curse all those who do not heed the mass murders Khomeyni and his regime are committing under the guise of Islam.

Baghdad Azeri Describes Khomeyni Regime

GF151804 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, due to its unnatural aspects, the executioner regime headed by Khomeyni holds a very strange place among the regimes of the world. The essence of the incidents which have occurred during the rule of that regime have been drawing attention because of their [words indistinct]. Regrettably, however, these strange developments, which describe the nature of the Khomeyni regime, are being disguised with the veil of Islam, behind which inauspicious crimes are being committed.

Although the Khomeyni regime has been receiving every kind of military and material aid from Israel, it has been engaged in a war propaganda against it. Meanwhile, irrespective of its wish to cooperate with the United States, which is the leader of world imperialism and reactionarism, the Khomeyni regime has been superficially describing it as the arch-Satan, shamelessly claiming that it is the enemy of the United States.

It is about 4 years now that this regime has been continuing its inimical and aggressive war in accordance with the line drawn up by the Zionists and arch-Satan America with a view to crushing the Muslim people of Iraq and dividing the land of Iraq. Meanwhile, the regime of these tyrannical elements, who have raised the blood-dripping axe of exploitation, has been sending the sons of the Iranians to the battlefronts of death for no reason at all but for the sake of exploitationist plans.

On the other hand, the illiterate mullahs' regime has been hatching conspiracies in foreign countries and committing crimes to undermine their peace and security. The Tehran regime has rejected the freedoms of the Iranian peoples. It has set up (?gallows) with a view to crushing the forces of opposition. It has robbed the non-Persian peoples of their national rights and imprisoned the struggling and progressive members of these people. Meanwhile, the Khomeyni regime, which represents the ugliest faces of [word indistinct], oppression, and terrorism, is itself suffering at the present time from discord, clashes, and brawls among its ranks. Each and every one of the pro-Khomeyni rulers wish to rid themselves of one another in order to seize the Iranian regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mullah 'Ali Khamene'i are hatching plots against each other. As for the other mullahs, they are eager to become the successors of Khomeyni. They do not hesitate to act against each other.

Thus, it seems obvious that the Khomeyni regime is the strangest and [word indistinct] among the regimes and administrations in the world.

Ministry of Labor Official Leaves for Cairo

JN151248 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA) — Suhayl Muhammad Salih, under secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, left for Cairo at noon today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. The Iraqi official will hold talks with Egyptian officials on ways to promote cooperation in the spheres of labor, training of workers, and social security.

Dailies Accuse Syria, U.S. of Encouraging Iran

JN151401 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, April 15, INA —A leading daily said today that the Syrian regime's outcry on an imminent Zionist aggression against Syria was merely a bid to distract attention from a new Iranian aggression against Iraq.

ATH-THAWRAH newspaper said in an editorial Sunday that the Syrian regime had been persistently escalating the situation in Lebanon and widely agitating informational propaganda just before any Iranian offensive on Iraq in order to facilitate the work of its ally in Tehran and to cover up Iranian buildups with the aim to invade Iraq.

The daily stressed that the Syrian regime was not only serving the Zionist entity but also trying to cover up the new Iranian attack on Iraq, while the Zionist entity encouraged the Iranian regime, through a wide suspected propaganda campaign, to continue its aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper drew the attention of the international public opinion as well as regional and international organizations to the intention of the Zionist entity against Iraq and held them responsible for condemning such expansionist aggressive schemes.

ATH-THAWRAH emphasized that Iraq was able to appropriately reply on any action that threatens Iraq's security and its scientific and industrial installations.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* daily stated that encouraging the Iranian regime to continue the war against Iraq was one of the basic concerns of the U.S.

It said Western quarters, after each Iraqi victory over Iran, start to propagate news and anticipations the real goals of which are aimed at misleading Tehran rulers and pushing them towards the continuation of the war.

AL-JUMHURIYAH paper pointed out that Zionism controls these Western quarters, plans their policies and encourages them to follow certain trends such as these propagations and anticipations as long as Zionism wants the Gulf war to be continued.

"Iraq realizes the intention of Zionism and that of the West and is capable to smash any new attack with stronger determination and more efficiently," the paper concluded.

King Husayn Addresses Arab Economic Meeting

JN161509 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn said that we in Jordan firmly believe in the inevitability of economic integration within an Arab strategy capable of using Arab resources, protecting Arab wealth, and creating continuous progress in Arab economic relations.

In an address he delivered at the opening of the 28th Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture Conference, held at the Palace of Culture today, his majesty the king added: An exploratory view of the Arab world today will disclose the depth of problems and challenges which our Arab nation is facing in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres. His majesty the king said these challenges are serious and fatal. He said that every challenge includes sudden danger and common misfortune which threaten both our present and our future. The king added that this danger produces instability, which threatens world peace and makes us call for viewing this danger realistically and watching for its consequences.

Addressing the conferees, His Majesty King Husayn said:Your meeting on Jordan's pure soil, your meetings in the capitals of the fraternal countries, as well as your meetings in the future, are firm assertions of Arab solidarity and of your determination to participate in revitalizing the spirit of this nation, which God honored by selecting as the best among all nations, so that it will be a nation capable of facing the challenges of this age.

His majesty the king called on the conference to direct the investment of Arab capital into productive projects which have an economic advantage for the Arab countries, to develop the Arab economy, and to create appropriate bases for Arab investments made with surplus Arab funds.

His Majesty King Husayn said: With all its strength and determination, Jordan is continuing the development process and overcoming the difficulties that resulted from the West Bank occupation, the twin of the East Bank. Through plans like the 3-year development plan, which began in 1973, we were able to achieve splendid economic and social accomplishments which were the result of interaction and cooperation between both the public and private sectors in light of stable security and a distinguished economic atmosphere.

His majesty the king asserted: In Jordan, we will remain a helper in the fraternal Arab countries' economic development projects by fulfilling their needs for the Jordanian working force represented by the Jordanian individual, the pillar of our wealth. In addition, we will continue to assume our responsibilities to our kinfolk under the yoke of occupation, who are faced with severe economic practices and pressures.

The king added: In Jordan, we give as much support as we can to our brothers in the occupied homeland, both with our Jordanian resources and with what is available from Arab aid, so that they can take care of their affairs. At the same time, the occupation authorities continue their measures and plans to link the economy of the occupied Arab territories with the Israeli economy to force citizens to emigrate from their lands. The king added: The goal of this is to settle immigrants in their places and to confiscate the Arab territories for the Zionist entity.

At the end of his address, His Majesty King Husayn asserted that Jordan assumes its responsibilities, lives in the circumstances of the Palestinian tragedy, and, due to its Arab affiliation, adheres to its pan-Arab commitments as dictated by the Palestinian cause.

Crown Prince Receives Visiting Tunisian Minister

JN161330 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning Ahmed Ben 'Arafat, minister of state for Tunisian international cooperation [title as heard], who is currently visiting Jordan. They discussed existing bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and means for promoting and deepening cooperation between them.

Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and tourism, and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Prince Hasan, Sharaf Meet Pakistani Group

JN161359 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] This morning at the Royal Scientific Society His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with the Pakistani National Defense College delegation, currently visiting Jordan. The crown prince gave the guest delegation a detailed explanation, supported by maps, of the expansionist Israeli settlement policy, the situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular. The Pakistani ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Layla Sharaf, information minister also received in her office this morning the teachers and students of the Pakistani National Defense College delegation. She briefed the delegation on the problems facing the Arab region, foremost being the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraqi-Iranian war. She also referred to His Majesty King Husayn's call for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East in which all the concerned parties in addition to the United States and the Soviet Union would participate. Mrs. Sharaf stressed the need for setting up a unified Arab-Islamic front to exercise international pressure in order to find a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Middle East problem in light of Security Council Resolution No 242. She also referred to U.S. President Reagan's peace plan for the Middle East which had suffered several blows. She said that Israel continues to occupy Arab lands and Lebanese territories, and continues to evict Arab citizens from their lands and to establish settlements. At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Sharaf answered the delegation's questions about the Lebanese problem and the Iraq-Iran war. The Pakistani ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Columnist Hopes USSR Will Reconcile Syria, Arabs

JN161054 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 84 p 28

["Life and People" column by Rakan al-Majali]

[Text] What is clear so far concerning the Iraq-Iran war is that the United States is encouraging this war with all means. Apart from the benefits it reaps from this war by strengthening the U.S. monopoly of the arms market, it wants the continuation of this war as an active means with which it can threaten the Arab Gulf countries and consequently use the RDF to defend its interests either in the Strait of Hormuz or anywhere else.

Within the framework of international strategy, the Soviet Union, which achieved an important victory when the Multinational Forces, spearheaded by the U.S. Marines, withdrew from Lebanese territory, today needs to reinforce its power centers in the region through U.S. recklessness and irresponsible bias toward the Zionist enemy. This is why the conflict in the region, no matter how formulas may differ, is ultimately a conflict between all Arabs on the one side and the Zionist entity on the other.

The Soviet Union, through its strong military and political stand on Syria's side at this stage, needs to establish itself on clear and firm bases. In addition to strengthening Syria's internal situation there must be a formula for joint Arab action on a basis of genuine solidarity to make the confrontation of the common enemy possible. Syria, on which falls the heaviest burden of solving the Lebanese issue, must first end all its secondary Arab differences so as not to waste Arab efforts in secondary conflicts. This is why Syrian-Palestinian relations — especially due to the principal role of the PLO in any confrontation with the enemy, regardless of the internal conditions of the PLO — are the natural basic principles which constitute a nucleus for any joint Arab action.

The Syrian position on the Iraq-Iran war, and Syrian-Iraqi cohesion — considering that Iraq is the Arab depth in the Arab East — should be inclined toward ending this war and stopping the aggression. Any strategy for confrontation in the region can-not be completed while this war is still raging because it means the continuation of the U.S.-Zionist wagering to paralyze Iraq's abilities on the one side, and heightening the fears of the Gulf states and other countries of the region on the other of the possibility of escalating war.

While we do not understand the new Iranian threats of another attack on Iraqi territory with hundreds of thousands of human lives, we can see that the result of this attack is the involvement of these thousands in a destructive and unproductive war, because Iran wants war for war's sake. On the other hand, the United States, which is hailing this new attack, sees in the increased flareup of this war a chance to compensate for its defeat in Lebanon.

This is why the growing Soviet role in the region is achieving a kind of international balance in the main conflict issue. But this balance can only be achieved by finding a regional balance, which cannot be attained without a return to Arab solidarity.

Let us hope the Soviet Union is concerned with convincing Syria to end all its Arab differences especially with the PLO, Jordan, and Iraq, and to play a principal role in clearing the atmosphere and ending the Iraq-Iran war. Let us hope the Soviet Union is concerned over that. However, what is really important is Syria's conviction of the importance of the pan-Arab role which unifies Arab efforts in these difficult times.

Further on Reconciliation Talks in Damascus

Noticeable Progress Achieved

JN161259 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] The intensive talks and contacts that began in Damascus yesterday morning to solve the Lebanese crisis have continued over the past 24 hours. This morning, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Walid Junblatt, who was accompanied by Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt. The meeting was also attended by 'Asim Qansuh and Muhsin Dallul. The meeting lasted for 2 hours, after which informed sources told us that discussion focused on joint concepts of the progressive parties and the Amal Movement — concepts that the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party delegation carried to Damascus following a meeting with Nabih Birri the day before yesterday. Various principles and bases, which could constitute a background for Lebanese national reconciliation, were presented. This Lebanese reconciliation will be built on political reform and the restoration of equilibrium and integration to Lebanese establishments.

Meetings between the parties to the National Salvation Front on the one hand and the national leadership on the other are expected to continue over the next few hours. We have just learned from a prominent source in the Lebanese nationalsit movement that the current talks in Damascus have achieved noticeable progress in terms of finding a formula in Lebanon that would end the fighting and ensure political reform. The source added that these talks will continue over the next few hours, after which the final formula will be conveyed to the Lebanese authorities. The source described the current developments as genuine, practical moves to pave the way for holding the Syrian- Lebanese summit after it has been postponed many times.

Birri To Be Briefed

NC161923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Former Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah returned from Damascus after holding consultations with Syrian officials and Lebanese opposition political leaders over the current proposals for a Lebanese accord. Hamadah and Junblatt will convey the results of their Damascus meetings to Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and other Islamic leaders.

Security Committee Approves 'Final' Plan

NC162043 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpts] During its meeting today, the Security Arrangements Committee approved the final plan for the deployment of the observers. The committee also approved the establishment of two new observation posts that will begin operating as of tomorrow. One observation post will be set up in Burj al-Murr and the other in Burj Rizq.

The Higher Political Security Committee is expected to meet soon to put the final touches to this plan and to approve three issues before the implementation of the [word indistinct] plan begins. These are:

1. The declaration of a comprehensive cease-fire on all axes in Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain.
2. Ending information campaigns.
3. Setting the date for the implemetnation of the disengagement of forces plan.

Regarding the issue of disengagement of forces, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri affirmed that he has given instructions to the Amal representative in the Security Arrangements Committee to go ahead with the disengagement plan without taking into consideration the question of a balance [in religious affiliation] among the abservers. This stand was taken on the basis of the Amal Movement's adherence to its principles, including the elimination of political sectarianism, the implementation of a cease-fire, and the application of the Lausanne conference resolutions in order to achieve national reconciliation. Birri today received Colonel Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Parliamentary Defense and Security Committee, who briefed him on the basic lines of a study he is preparing regarding ways to liberate the south.

Al-Jumayyil Meets Franjiyah Envoys 16 Apr

NC161551 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Within the context of the consultations and contacts the government is carrying out with the leaders of the national dialogue conference, President Amin al-Jumayyil today met with Deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rafi and Ramiz Khazin, envoys of [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah. The meeting, which began at 0830 and ended at 1400, was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni. The conferees reviewed various aspects of the current Lebanese situation.

Franjiyah Seizes Arms Destined for Phalangists

NC161755 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] It has been learned that 20 containers of arms have been confiscated by [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah's men in the port of Sil'ata. The arms were meant for the Lebanese Forces. Informed sources have stated that Mr Amin al-Jumayyil raised this matter with President Franjiyah during his recent meeting with him in Al-Batrun, claiming that the arms were for the Army. However, President Franjiyah refused to release the arms because he was not convinced of Mr al-Jumayyil's claim.

Al-Barbir-Museum Road Reopened 17 April

NC170621 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Al-Barbir-Museum Road was reopened this morning following contacts by the quadripartite security committee on more than one level. Yesterday the committee approved the disengagement of forces plan.

Israeli Tanks Take Positions in Western Al-Biqa'

NC170640 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Citizens in western Al-Biqa' have observed the return of columns of Israeli tanks and armored cars to Kifrayya, Tallat as-Sa'luq, north of 'Ammiq, Ba'lul camp, Al-Qir'awn, and the posts in the Ar-Rashid Plain, Ruha ruins, Dakka, Bkharquq Hills, the outskirts of Mdukhah, Al-Birah Hills, Jabal Jubb Jannin, and Jabal al-Baruk.

The Israelis told the inhabitants of villages adjacent to the Al-Biqa' confrontation line not to roam or get near this line, and that fire will be opened on anyone disregarding this order without prior warning. The Israelis also told the inhabitants that the only crossing point in the area north of Jubb Janin will be closed for 15 days.

Shi'ite Leader Comments on U.S., Soviet Stands

NC131517 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, lauded the stand adopted by the UN secretary general on the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate in southern Lebanon. He expressed his surprise at the U.S. and Soviet objections in this respect, regarding their stand as incompatible with their declared policies toward Lebanon. Shams ad-Din said failure to approve the draft resolution for extending UNIFIL's mandate constitutes an abandonment of the destiny of the south and enables Israel to implement its scheme of pursuing its suppressive operations, its persecution of the citizens, and its fomentation of seditions to denude the south, to control the south's economy and waters, and to completely sever it from Lebanon. Shams ad-Din expressed his fear that the south is the victim of the conflict between the two superpowers. He urged everyone to continue to resist such a state of affairs.

Shams ad-Din Target of Assassination Attempt

Five Suspects Arrested

NC141704 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] A security report received a short while ago says that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, was the target of an assassination attempt as he was leaving his home in Harat Hurayk [in West Beirut]. Several shots were fired at him but missed. Immediately afterward, an exchange of fire took place between the would-be assassins and the guards of Shams ad-Din. Five suspects were subsequently arrested. The perimeter of Shams ad-Din's home is still subjected to stringent security measures by Amal gunmen.

Shams ad-Din Unharmed

NC141916 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The office of His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, [deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council] has released the following statement, commenting on the report carried by some private information media that Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din has been subjected to an assassination attempt: The office announces that his eminence is well and in good health. He has pursued his daily activities as usual. This afternoon and this evening his eminence received numerous personalities and some delegations from Jibshit and Kafr Salah. He dealt with the supply situation in the south and the issue of the tobacco, olives, and citrus farmers. He received a report in this respect. His eminence also discussed the situation in contacts with His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese republic.

Contacted by Birri

NC142004 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has contacted by telephone Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, to enquire about him after the vicinity of his house was shelled. Lawyer Birri also received a delegation from Iqlim al-Kharrub which briefed him on the various aspects of the situation there.

Israeli Forces Patrol Coastal Road 14 April

NC141003 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] While the Israeli occupation forces are isolating southern Lebanon, citizens who arrived from the south this morning say that the Israeli forces are still cutting the Batir-Jazzin Road and that enemy soldiers arrested several southern citizens at an Israeli roadblock in Batir yesterday. The travelers, who met great difficulties on the road, say that this morning Israeli infantry and mechanized forces are intensively patrolling the coastal road between Sidon, Tyre, and An-Nabatiyah in the wake of the escalation of the National Resistance operations against the occupation forces. The resistance men yesterday attacked the enemy forces in several areas in the south.

Leader, Opposition Remarks on Random Shelling

Mufti Khalid Calls for Restraint

NC141326 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] As part of his constant moves, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, today received former Prime Ministers Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh and Salim al-Huss, and former Minister Malik Salam with whom he discussed the current Lebanese situation and the daily random shelling of peaceful residential areas.

After the meeting, Mufti Khalid said: The plenary Islamic meeting held in Dar al-Fawa on Thursday urged the leaders of the influential forces in West Beirut to fully adhere to the cease-fire and not to return fire. We observed that this has been adhered to in West Beirut. However, West Beirut came under random shelling from East Beirut for some time, during which we insisted that the leaders of this area must maintain self-restraint and must not return the criminal action. We strongly condemn yesterday's incidents. We note with satisfaction the response shown by the influential leaderships in West Beirut not to return the shelling.

We call on the command of the Army and the armed militia forces also to respond to the Muslims' national and humanitarian stance to spare the populated areas the consequences of artillery exchanges. There is no need to reaffirm that we condemn the random shelling, whatever its source. This is not a random shelling, but a concentrated shelling against innocent and peaceful people and against political solutions, national accord, security, and stability in Lebanon. It is also against the current efforts and preparations for the expected Lebanese-Syrian summit which it is hoped will bring about good and peace for the homeland and all the citizens, and will safeguard Lebanon's integrity, security, and stability.

VOL Blames Opposition

NC141612 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Political and diplomatic circles in Beirut have expressed surprise over the stand adopted by the opposition. While the government is adopting positive and clear stands to settle the serious situation in the country, the opposition is adopting a negative position regarding the proposed political solutions, including the formation of a government of national unity. It is especially surprising that the opposition continues to exert military pressure despite all its claims. Military observers have recorded that the opposition has been the one to start the shelling of peaceful areas since last Monday while, at the same time, the opposition's representatives have obstructed the work of the Higher Political Security Committee and have resorted to disseminating information contrary to the facts about the committee's work.

According to the wrapup of the reports which the French observers submit every week, the random shelling to which the various areas are subjected is in most cases started by the parties positioned in the eastern sector of the capital.

Socialists, Amal Expand Shelling

NC141540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1522 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The socialists and the Amal Movement have expanded the area of their shelling. Their shells went behond the contact lines a short time ago to concentrate on the residential areas in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and the peripheries of Furn ash-Shubbak. Security sources told the Voice of Lebanon radio that the Army positions, which have been subjected to attacks and provocations this afternoon, have not been responding although they have pinpointed the sources of the shelling in As'ad al-As'ad, 'Abd al-Karim al-Khalil, and in the inner quarters in Burj al-Barajinah and the vicinity of Beirut airport.

Colonel Jean Nasif has been informed of this matter so that he will discuss it with the gunmen's representatives at the Security Arrangements Committee.

6th Brigade Intensifies Patrols in Beirut

NC141419 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Lebanese Army 6th Brigade has intensified its motorized and foot patrols on the capital's streets. The brigade has set up mobile roadblocks on a number of main streets to maintain security and stability.

Sham'un Statement on Meeting With Al-Jumayyil

NC141218 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Within the framework of the political consultations President Amin al-Jumayyil is conducting, he received at noon today in B'abda palace [former] President Camille Sham'un. President Sham'un said after the meeting: I can say that President al-Jumayyil has a correct approach, and the method he is adopting in tackling the various issues is wise and very reasonable. What matters to us is that the situation becomes quiet and the Lebanese citizen feels that his life is no longer in danger. I would like to assure the Lebanese people that efforts are being made to restore normal life in Lebanon.

Answering a question, President Sham'un said: The preference is to form a national unity government. If this takes place, it will be an excellent step forward.

Sham'un Calls on Syrian Forces To Withdraw

NC151355 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] [Former] President Camille Sham'un today called on all Syrian forces to immediately withdraw from Lebanon. This came in reply to a question by Radio Free Lebanon on rumors about the likelihood of the return of the Deterrent Forces to Beirut. Sham'un said:

We demand the departure of all Syrians who are present on our territory. It is illogical and unacceptable to demand the extension of the area of their presence. On this basis I announce my rejection of help from any non-Lebanese deterrent force whether it is Syrian or something else.

On the forthcoming Lebanese-Syrian summit, Sham'un expressed the belief that such a summit will not be convened soon. He said: I am personally against the principle of such unreciprocated visits which a former Lebanese president used to make. Such visits consecrate a rejected situation, indicating that

Damascus has become a recourse for Lebanon and its issues — something which must not be continued.

Sham'un expressed his denunciation for the lack of security in the western area of the capital, particularly the attempt against Shaykh Shams ad-Din behind which were either the communists or the Palestinians.

P. al-Jumayyil Urges Formation of Security Force

NC141628 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] [Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has urged the warring parties to agree on a security force that will be able to control the situation.

He said: It is true that I have proposed a deterrent force, but this does not mean that I am calling for the return of the Syrian Deterrent Forces.

In a radio statement, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri yesterday said that Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, during the Lausanne conference, thrice suggested bringing in the Syrian Deterrent Forces but did not refer to them by name.

After calling for the formation of a responsible government, the Phalangist Party leader wondered about the hegemony that some persons in West Beirut are talking about with a view to distracting attention from the real hegemony that is existing in the western sector of the capital.

P. al-Jumayyil Statement After Phalange Party Meeting

NC161330 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] At noon today Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil presided over the joint weekly meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau and Central Council. The meeting centered on an appraisal of the current Lebanese situation.

After the meeting Shaykh Pierre said that Lebanon and the Phalange Party are heading toward important developments that require our readiness to deal with them. He pointed out that the Political Bureau will be holding a conclave soon.

He added: We are now at one of the more violent phases of the crisis because of the other parties' attempt to gain control in order to change the institutions by force. This explains the continuous tension in the security situation.

The Phalangist leader expressed the hope that the war of attrition will end and that the country will soon rise above the crisis. He called for the unity of ranks and firmness so as to traverse this difficult phase.

Phalangist Official Assesses Security Situation

JN132056 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1755 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Interview with Dr George Sa'adah, member of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau, by Antoine Abu Samra, Radio Monte Carlo editor in chief; carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program on 13 April —recorded]

[Excerpts][Antoine Abu Samra] Dr Sa'adah, after Lausanne and the Syrian-Lebanese summit which is being delayed, I believe that an assessment of the situation must be made. In your opinion, why is the Syrian-Lebanese summit not taking place and what are the obstacles?

[Dr George Sa'adah] In reality, everything that is connected to the solution of the Lebanese crisis is delayed and faces obstructions. This raises many questions. Why all these obstructions? Why after every meeting and conference, and when the Lebanese come to believe that the Lebanese crisis will be solved soon do they find that all the hopes they had pinned on these meetings and conferences have not been up to the level of their aspirations?

Let us take the issue of the cease-fire, for example. resolutions on this were adopted at various levels, by subcommittees and conferences. The first decision made at the Lausanne conference had been the attainment of a cease-fire. Everyone pledged to work this time to end the exchange of fire which goes on and on, but this resolution was not implemented.

The Lausanne conference also adopted a decision on the formation of a Higher Political Security Committee under the president of the republic, comprised of politicians and military men because in the past, every time the politicians used to meet and adopt decisions, these decisions would not be implemented. And when one used to ask why they had not been implemented, someone would say that those on the ground do not abide by the political decisions.

When those on the ground used to meet and adopt decisions on a cease-fire and the security situation, it used to be said that perhaps the politicians were those who obstructed such decisions. That is why the Higher Political Security Committee simultaneously included the politicians and the military men. The first decision adopted by the committee had been to reach a cease-fire and entrench it. At the time, we were of the opinion that decisions adopted must not be made public so that the citizens would not be disappointed if these decisions were not implemented. However, it became evident that the fate of the resolutions adopted by the Higher Political Security Committee had been the same as all previous decisions and, therefore, the fighting continued. That is why one's attention was directed toward Damascus, which had played a reconciliatory role in the Lausanne conference and because it was supposed to influence some of the parties that had not implemented the decisions that were adopted. However, here we find ourselves living in the same whirlpool that has been existing since 1975.

[Abu Samra] Dr Sa'adah, with respect to the security situation, there are some voices calling for the return of the ADF, that is, the Syrian forces, to Beirut to establish security. If there is no other solution, do you approve of this solution?

[Sa'adah] I do not know if this request is a serious one. We in Lebanon have tried the Lebanese solution, despite the fact that it had been a lame solution from the start. We then tried the ADF. All the Arabs withdrew and only the Syrian forces remained. After this, the Syrian forces withdrew from some of the Lebanese areas. There were also the multinational forces, and the security situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate. I do not know whether this request is real or only to create obstacles? The Lebanese Army which includes elements from all the Lebanese, all the communities, and all the factions is viewed in certain areas as being a sectarian army. If the Syrian Army comes to some of the Lebanese areas, will it not be viewed as a sectarian army too? I address all the Lebanese parties asking them to put Lebanese interests above all interests. We can find a group from the Lebanese Army, or from the Lebanese internal security forces, on which all will agree and whose task will be to disengage the forces and protect security if all of us agree to this. If there is a general consensus by all the parties to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy, then I believe that a limited number of the internal security forces or forces from the Lebanese Army will be capable of safeguarding security. However, if intentions continue to be as they have been in the past, neither the ADF, the Syrian forces, nor the multinational forces can do anything. The best example of this is the past which we still remember.

[Abu Samra] In short, am I to understand that you reject the return of the Syrian forces to Beirut, and the front which you represent rejects this too?

[Sa'adah] In reality, this request has been made only to throw dust in the eyes.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam Interviewed

JN132145 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1812 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Interview with Sa'ib Salam, former prime minister, by Antoine Abu Samra, Radio Monte Carlo editor in chief; carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program on 13 April — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Antoine Abu Samra] Prime Minister Salam, we can say today with regret that the Lebanese war has entered its 10th year. After Lausanne, the hope of a certain solution appeared, but we see today that the Lebanese-Syrian summit is being delayed day after day. In your opinion, how can we evaluate the present situation and what are the reasons for the delay in the Lebanese-Syrian summit?

[Sa'ib Salam] Let us begin at the beginning: Today is not the 10th year; it is the 12th, because the tragedy began in 1973, not in April 1974. If there was no prelude, the 1975 eruption would not have occurred. You remember [word indistinct] because of the Army and its commander were derelict in their duty in resisting the Israeli aggression against Beirut. Regretfully, since that day the Army was not trusted by the people, and it no longer had the ability to carry out its duties. Any regime without a security arm, and our security arm was the Army, will become weak in everything. You remember how my resignation was followed by clashes with the Palestinians there; using planes, guns, and all the weapons of the Army? After 24 or 48 hours we found the regime cooperating with those it was fighting with guns and planes and forming joint security forces between the Palestinians and the Army on equal basis. Since that day, matters went out of hand which resulted in a Lebanese collapse in April 1975.

[Abu Samra] The Syrian-Lebanese summit to which many attach high hopes is being delayed day after day. In your opinion, what is the real reason for delaying this summit?

[Salam] I do not want to say that I have information to confirm the real reason. But my analysis is that the Syrians do not want this summit to fail as the Lausanne conference. They want to have an understanding over specific points before the summit, and I think that they are right in this. If the summit fails, it will effect the morale of the already nervous people and will be detrimental to any future step, making it impossible to deal at any level. Let everyone hear this: I do not have information to base my comment on, but this is my analysis.

[Abu Samra] Voices have been raised lately calling for the return of Syrian forces to Beirut and particularly to West Beirut. What is your position on this? And do you agree to the return of Syrian forces to Beirut if this is the last resort to control matters?

[Salam] I heard about this as reported in the papers and media, but this was heresay on which I cannot comment much. I do not think that this would be easy today. In any event, this depends on the negotiations taking place between Syria and Lebanon. We see the Lebanese Government delegating the so-called president's adviser, who is at the same time a pillar of the Lebanese militias. How can this be reconciled? This imbalance regrettfully results in very dangerous consequences.

[Abu Samra] When you say that you have advised President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Al-Wazzan to no avail, do you mean that both did not listen, or was it only Al-Jumayyil?

[Salam] Both, each in his position. This is why people now blame me by saying, "why do you say this now?" It is my right to say this because I have said it in secret and then in a semi- secret manner; then I said it in public and many times to press conferences and to the media. What more is expected of me? I have always been asked whether I was a loyalist or opposer. They blamed me for supporting the legitimacy, thinking that I was a loyalist. I am not a loyalist and not an opposer. I support legitimacy because I find in it the only means to salvage Lebanon, if there is any hope of saving this dear country.

Junblatt on Disengagement, Chances for Reform

JN141037 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Apr 84 pp 1, 27

[Rabab Mangu dispatch]

[Text] Amman, *AR-RA'Y* — In an exclusive statement to *AR-RA'Y* Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], said that the Lausanne conference failed because President Amin al-Jumayyil's government is continuing to abide by its agreement with Israel and because the Lebanese Phalangists do not care for the occupied south and are still maintaining their strong alliance with Israel. He said: There is no reason for some to imagine that there is a difference in the situation that existed before and after Lausanne.

Junblatt added: The Lebanese Phalangists are not ready to make the required concessions for the sake of reaching the aspired for political reform. They are still buying weapons and ammunition, and are still escalating the situation. What happened in West Beirut last week was done by the Phalangists and the army. We then began to talk about a new security plan called a "disengagement" plan. It is a plan that is impossible to implement because actually there is no real disengagement of forces, but retreat for several meters on some fronts without any guarantee that clashes will not be renewed.

Junblatt emphasized that the disengagement of forces means the Lebanese forces' evacuation of a basic area, that is, Suq al-Gharb. He added that the so-called "legitimate army" has ended with the presence of several armies in Lebanon. He added: We are still facing the tone of political extortion and sometimes armed extortion. During the recent contacts we noticed that Amin al-Jumayyil wants to form a government. Thus we have returned to the starting point, because the Lebanese conflict revolves around this point.

Regarding the PSP's demands after the Lausanne conference, Junblatt said: We are still calling for toppling the trend of hegemony on the state and for defining responsibilities, that is, forming a tribunal to try the officers and political officials for what has happened. Moreover, the president of the republic must be put on trial if we want to fully implement the Lebanese constitution.

Regarding the various sides' attitudes toward the proposed partition plans, Junblatt said: Lebanon has actually been partitioned. We have the Phalange state in central Lebanon, and Sa'd Haddad's statelet in the south — a state which is expanding every day and which has reached the outskirts of Ash-Shuf and Sidon. On the other hand, Israel is supporting the Liberal Party under the leadership of Lahhad, who is close to Camille Sham'un, in order to form the so-called "regional district." [sentence as published] Lebanon is particulally divided into four parts: south-ern, central, mountain, and the liberated national suburb and the areas controlled by the Syrian forces.

Junblatt added: These divisions are not final. They expand or contract according to circumstances. The Phalangists, in cooperation with the southern Lebanese state, will again try to attack the mountain and Beirut.

Asked about the way to end the Lebanese war, he said: "The 100-year war." We are calling for a new political system, for unifying Lebanon on the basis of a new political formula, and for toppling all the sectarian plans of partition. We want a new Lebanon that is democratic and secular, in which political sectarianism is abolished.

He added: The Lebanese Phalangists are an extension of an extremist Maronite policy dating back to the 19th century — a policy that wants Lebanon to be only Maronite and that wants to expel the other factions. It is impossible for the secular, democratic, and national Arab plan to meet with the sectarian plan which may extend to the Arab world once it succeeds in Lebanon.

Regarding the formation of a national unity government, Junblatt wondered about the principles on which this national unity can be based. He described it as a government that runs affairs once it comes to life, and said that it will not live long. He added that the failure to reach an agreement in Lausanne prevents the formation of a national government.

Asked about the PSP's demands from the national government once it is formed, Junblatt emphasized that his stands will not change.

Asked about his opinion in case new Syrian-backed alliances emerge in Lebanon, Junblatt indicated that Syria wants Lebanon to be a unified Arab country that is independent in a certain manner and that revolves within the orbit of Syrian strategy. Syria, he said, does not want to see a victor or vanquished in Lebanon. He added that if any of the Lebanese sides insist on being linked with the West and on the partition plan, this will be unacceptable to Syria. He added: Our alliance with Syria is "basic and strategic."

On the attack against the Al-Murabitun headquarters in Lebanon, Junblatt said that he tried to restore a minimum level of stability by striking at some "groups" in Beirut, especially since the criteria have changed in Lebanon and some have developed a desire to be presided over by heads of gangs.

Regarding reports on the PSP preventing Palestinian armed men from reaching southern Lebanon, Junblatt said: The national resistance in the south is operating normally. We informed our brothers in the Palestinian resistance that their presence in some areas in Ash-Shuf may be detrimental to the Lebanese situation. This is evident in the continuation of the Israeli raids on the Bhamdun and 'Alayh areas. I asked the resistance to define the relationship between us. However, some of the resistance sides want to return to the old formula, which led to the joint catastrophe.

Regarding the demands of the Druze in occupied Palestine concerning the forthcoming elections and coordination between the Lebanese and Golan Druze, Junblatt indicated that the Druze, whether in Lebanon, Israel, or the Golan, are an integral part of the Arab world. He added: There was coordination with the Druze in Israel when the latter occupied the Ash-Shuf mountain. Israel is now trying to pressure and tempt some Druze in Hasbayya and Rashayya into joining the so-called regional army. He said that this Israeli pressure is not confined to the Druze, because Israel is also putting pressure on the Shi'ite and Christian members of parties and citizens.

Lebanese Forces Welcome Junblatt, Birri Remarks

NC161850 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting today. It drew the attention of the steadfast Christian people, at the start of Passion Week, to the fact that the sacrifices our people have given and continue to give are the ones that have prevented the imposition of all false concepts. It said the capitulationist enticements aimed at a false and temporary peace in return for sacrificing the future and submitting to Syrian hegemony can only destroy the future of our free existence and the guarantee of our distinctive survival.

The Command Council emphasized that the financial and moral resources necessary to stand fast in the face of the pressures are enough for years to come; all we have to do is to use them.

The statement considered Walid Junblatt's recognition that priority should be given to stopping the destruction — as talk about reform in the atmosphere of killings is useless talk — as proof of awareness and positiveness. This can be used as a starting point to reach the cherished calm.

The conferees heard in Birri's call last Saturday for dialogue a sincere Lebanese voice. This call can be construed as a contribution toward the appropriate atmospehre for dialogue, starting by ceasing fire and by not linking the dialogue with preconditions.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council stressed that military pressure, which is being translated into shelling of innocent civilians, will never be a means for achieving any demand, but will lead to similar reactions. It said democratic means, such as dialogue and negotiations, will give everyone his due. The demands are not particular to one party to the exclusion of others. The time has come for those who tolerate the shedding of blood to realize that the interests of all Lebanese lie in peace and conciliation.

Israel's Lubrani on Christian-Druze Relations

NC131313 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] In a statement to Radio Free Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, coordinator general of Israeli activities in Lebanon, has described the relationship between Walid Junblatt and Syria as a problem for Walid Junblatt himself, because the day will come when he will find himself compelled to choose which relationship is more important — his relationship with Syria or his relationship with the Druze community in Lebanon.

Lubrani added that Walid Junblatt must realize that he will not remain leader of the Druze forever. Therefore, he must decide whether or not he wants to remain leader of the Druze. Lubrani expressed the belief that it is in the Druzes' interest to reach an agreement with the Christian people, not only on the human level but also on the economic and political levels. He explained that he maintains contacts with the two sides. He also expressed the conviction that it is possible to reach an agreement between the two sides.

Answering a question on Junblatt's denial of the signing of any agreement on the Al-Kharrub region, Lubrani said that what is important is what happens on the ground and not what people say. I personally am assured that this agreement will stand and that nothing will happen to disturb it.

Lubrani affirmed that Israel sought to reach this agreement at the request of the Lebanese Forces to enable the return of the Christian refugees from Ash-Shuf, who sought refuge in the south and the al-Kharrub region.

Concerning the possibility of a similar measure in the Ash-Shuf region or any other region, Lubrani said: This is possible but not easy. He called for direct dialogue between the Christians and the Druzes with a high degree of desire to soften stands.

U.S. 'Sabotaging' Syrian Reconciliation Efforts

NC150720 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] The current political phase and the accompanying Israeli threats against Syria, as well as the joint moves by the U.S. Administration and the ruling team in Ba'bda, this time fall within the framework of the current U.S. attempts to highlight regional issues, to detonate them over the Lebanese arena, and to foil the serious Syrian efforts to achieve political reconciliation and to consolidate security and stability in Lebanon.

National sources warned yesterday of the consequences of continuing to squander the positive results reached by the Higher Security Political Committe and of depriving the Lebanese people, who have long awaited security, peace, and a natural life, of this opportunity.

Hence, Washington's renewed attempts to return to the Arab region through its central door, Lebanon, were embodied yesterday in the resumption of a visit to the region by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and by the accusations by CIA Director William Casey against Syria, Iran, and Libya and his description of their capitls as centers of international terrorism. The dangerous attempts to sabotage the Lausanne conference results are embodied by the frenzied military escalation begun by Amin al-Jumayyil and by his clear instructions to the artillery positions in the Phalangist ghetto to shell the inhabited national areas and to increase tension in the combat axes. This escalation came less than 48 hours after Al-Jumayyil received a letter of support from his U.S. ally President Ronald Reagan and while Damascus is trying to control the security situation and to bring closer the viewpoints of the national leaderships and of the ruling team in Ba'bda.

Israelis Besiege Town in South for Three Days

NC150746 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Reports from the south say the Israeli occupation forces are still besieging the town of An-Numayriyah for the 3d successive day. The town's inhabitants issued a statement in which they explained the practices of the Israeli enemy forces, who damaged crops and some installations and detained a number of the town's sons after closing all roads leading to it.

Information from the south says the inhabitants of Al-Bazuriyah have closed all roads leading into the town in order to prevent the Israeli occupation forces from entering and to secure the release of five of the town's youths, which they have requested. It should be noted that the occupation forces had raided the township 4 days earlier and detained a number of citizens.

Siege Lifted

NC161540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The Israeli forces lifted the siege on An-Numayriyah village after detaining Jamal and Hasan Budayr. The Israeli forces closed the Batir-Jazzin Road at 1400 today and informed those who stopped at the roadblock that the road will be opened on Wednesday.

Lubrani Denies Israel Diverting Al-Litani Waters

NC151540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activity in Lebanon, has denied that his country has installed equipment to divert Al-Litani River waters. Lubrani called on the rumormongers to go to the south and see the truth for themselves. He added that Israel has over the years assisted the border strip villages to install water networks and has supplied these villages with water from Israel.

Al-Asad-Jallud Meeting Shown on TV 16 Apr

JN161135 [Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 16 April carries as the first item in its scheduled newscast a 2-minute film clip of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting in Damascus today with Libya's Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is present. The three men are seated throughout the film clip. The camera provides long, medium closeup and closeup shots of Al-Asad and Jallud talking, as the announcer reports on their 16 April meeting. Al-Asad is seen smiling, laughing, and gesturing with his hands as he talks.

Junblatt, Jallud Hold Talks in Damascus

JN171400 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud met late last night with Walid Junblatt in the presence of Muhsin Dallul and Tawfiq Sultan. This was the first meeting between Junblatt and the Libyan leadership since the bloody events in Beirut between the Al-Murabitun forces and the forces of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. We have learned from our own sources that Jallud and Junblatt put the blame on each other. Junblatt had earlier expressed his readiness to come to an agreement with Ibrahim Qulaylat. However, Junblatt state there will be an agreement provided Qulaylat does not return to Beirut. This led to a delay in the reconciliation. It must be noted that Ibrahim Qulaylat did not take part in the talks.

However, a PSP source has denied these reports saying that the talks did not touch on the Junblatt-Qulaylat reconciliation. A source in the Al-Murabitun movement told us that the talks had centered on this reconciliation and that heated discussion and recrimination took place.

Major Jallud continued his contacts with the Palestinian leadership in Syria. Yesterday, he met with the Fatah opposition leaders. Today, he met with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the PFLP-General Command, in the presence of PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah.

Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt left Damascus yesterday for Beirut to inform Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri about the results of the Damascus contacts on Lebanon.

In Damascus also, the PFLP spokesman said that the talks between the quadrilateral democratic alliance on the one hand and the Fatah Central Committee will begin in Algiers tomorrow now that the democratic alliance delegation has arrived in Algiers. He said that Algeria and the PDRY will attend the meeting. No other side will attend because talks will center on the working paper presented by the democratic alliance to the Fatah Central Committee. The paper includes political and organizational points that aim at cementing cracks in the PLO on the basis of the PLO national program and the PNC resolutions. The spokesman said it is too early to talk about the PNC because its convocation requires comprehensive national agreement on all the political and organizational problems.

Abu 'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the PFLP; and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Algiers yesterday to participate in these talks which will begin this morning.

Israeli Annexation of Southern Lebanon Discusssed

JN131514 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli circles are openly saying the situation in southern Lebanon is no different from the situation in the West Bank, Gaza, and the occupied Syrian heights. The Israeli leadership, both ruling and opposition, is trying to exploit the time factor to peddle its strategic objective of expansionism and settlement.

The ruling Likud party under Yitzhaq Shamir rejects even the idea of withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and the opposition leaders, under Peres, also do not see any need to expedite this withdrawal. They consider the time factor one of their important weapons to guarantee Israel's desire to reach security arrangements or fragment parts of southern Lebanon for purposes of expansion, under the pretext of protecting the Israeli settlements in the Galilee.

It is obvious from this game, in which roles are exchanged, that all the Zionist leaders agree on one objective — an objective about which Western media talked today — the policy of slowly annexing southern Lebanon to the Zionist entity. The idea of comparing Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon with its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza means that Israel is seriously thinking about settling the Lebanese territories. This is after, of course, international observers are certain that the Litani River's water has begun to reach areas deep inside Israel. In drawing up its long-term plans, Israel depends on Arab inaction regarding the legitimate Arab rights.

At a time when some Arab sides are making diplomatic efforts to negotiate with Israel, the Shamir government finds there is nothing hindering it from building new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Furthermore, the Israeli opposition leadership, on which some renegade Arabs ['arab ar-riddah] are betting, also does not find anything hindering it from pursuing the Israeli ambitions in southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese rightists are not concerned about Lebanon's unity and independence as much as they are concerned about its partition with Israeli support, and the Israeli leadership finds such a stand encouraging in regard to its strategic, expansionist, and settlement objectives. This is because the proponents of partition are not concerned with southern Lebanon. What concerns them is only the piece of land on which they currently live in Beirut. Otherwise, what would make those Zionist-like Lebanese ally themselves with Israel against Syria and the Lebanese masses' aspirations? Furthermore, why would their reports be identical with those from the Zionist media regarding the heroic Lebanese nationalist resistance operations in southern Lebanon?

Along with those who act like Zionists in Lebanon, Israel is fully aware that its devouring of the Arab land, including southern Lebanon, will not be easy because Syria has moved from a position of confrontation to one of steadfastness, and from a position of defense to one of retaliation and deterrence. Thus, despite their contradictions, the Zionist leaders' statements conform with the current Israeli-U.S. preparations to wage an aggression against Syria, alone, because the Arab defeatists' front has expanded and has begun to say openly that it will not back Syria in any war with Israel.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry's director general yesterday repeated the threats and warnings and explained openly that Israel will not remain silent over any Syrian effort aimed at creating security in Lebanon which would lead to Lebanese national reconciliation. This Zionist official considers the establishment of security in the Lebanese territories an encroachment on the rights of the Israeli allies in Lebanon. This is what Israel will not accept.

The Zionists are openly admitting that southern Lebanon has turned into a swamp of death in which their soldiers are drowning, and they are concerned about coming out from this swamp not through withdrawal, but through escalating their aggression and expanding the area of their occupation. This fact indicates only one direction — namely, the trend of war and aggression.

However, the most important and effective fact is that Syria will not relinquish Lebanon's independence and unity, and will not permit the partition of Lebanon's land or the subjugation of parts of it to occupation. Syria will not deviate from its objective of liberating the usurped Arab soil. Syria has strength and determination, which makes it more committed to its stands, regardless of the expanding Arab defeatists' circle, the multiplicity of the parties to the aggression, and the means they use.

Report on Dayr Qanun an-Nahr Incident

JN140616 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon — Six Israeli soldiers were killed and two Israeli tanks destroyed last night when a vehicle loaded with explosives went off in an Israeli position near the village of Dayr Qanun an-Nahr, near Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. REUTER cited Beirut radio as saying a national Lebanese resistance man used his vehicle to storm an Israeli position on a suicidal mission against the Zionist occupation forces. An Israeli army spokesman had earlier announced that four soldiers were wounded in the car explosion, but he did not admit they died.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted that two Israeli soldiers were wounded yesterday when the national resistance men fired light weapons and hurled hand grenades at an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon. The spokesman added that the patrol was attacked near the village of Ad-Duwayr, some 10 km northwest of An-Nabatiyah.

In another development, the Zionist occupation forces closed all bridges and roads between the South and the rest of Lebanon as part of a continuous campaign aimed at detaching and isolating southern Lebanon. This closure came after the daring operation a fedayeen group carried out in occupied Palestine against Zionist targets in the territories occupied in 1948.

ATH-THAWRAH Notes Security Committee Progress

JN140745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon Returns to the Road of Dialogue Once Again," *ATH-THAWRAH* writes: It seems the Lebanese sides have finally realized that the language of dialogue and negotiations is the right way to overcome the current impasse and attain a life of accord, security, and tranquility. This realization was expressed through the important decisions the Higher Security Committee issued yesterday. According to these decisions, the committee approved the timetable of the plan on the disengagement of forces. This approval acquires a special importance because it is supposed to directly reflect on the security situation and lead to further detente. Those who are trying to explode and escalate the security situation in Lebanon have reached a deadlock, and have discovered that the Lebanese people's will to achieve national accord is the strongest.

However, this does not mean that the road is now strewn with flowers in front of the Lebanese. Many difficulties are awaiting them, especially since Israel will not give up its attempts to spark off a new civil war in Lebanon that can destroy everything. Nevertheless, these difficulties are apparently surmountable through the Lebanese people's determination to follow the road of dialogue and understanding. It is through such determination that the Lebanese can get out of the whirlpool of the crisis afflicting them. They will always find Syria their brother who stands at their side and extends to them the help enabling them to solve their differences, overcome past events, and restore normal life in an atmosphere of accord, fraternity, and understanding.

Syria cares for Lebanon's security as much as it cares for its own. By doing so, Syria embodies its pan-Arab will, which always prompts it to defend the Arab territory and confront all the colonialist schemes and plans aimed at controlling the region's destinies and strategic wealth. Leader Al-Asad has frequently stressed that achieving national accord in Lebanon has become Syria's strategic target. This is supposed to encourage the Lebanese to benefit from fraternal Syria's stand in order to solve the marginal differences and disputes and to build a unified, independent homeland.

Commentary Warns U.S., Israel on War Threats

JN141349 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, Israel's rulers and politicans are again speaking about war with Syria. Moshe Arens directs open threats to Syria and says Israel has triumphed in all previous wars. Yitzhaq Shamir makes statements to Israeli television in which he says Israel is not at all thinking of waging war on Syria. Earlier, however, he directed open threats to Syria. Yitzhaq Rabin, a leading member of the opposition Labor Party, spoke about his party program and called for not waging war with Syria.

When Israel's rulers and politicians speak about war against Syria with such intensity and urgency, in such a short period of time, and in the delicate circumstances that followed the United States' large defeat in Lebanon, this means at best that the subject of war is being discussed both in Israel and between it and the United States. This is because Israel cannot embark on a major military action without first obtaining the green light from Washington.

Whether the Israeli rulers' talk about war against Syria is some kind of psychological warfare, part of U.S. pressure on Damascus, or a prelude to either a limited or large-scale military action against Syria, the behavior of the Israeli and U.S. rulers is creating a very serious situation in a sensitive part of the world where many sides have vested interests. This means that any local explosion is bound to have major repercussions outside the area.

At any rate, the Israeli and U.S. rulers will assume full responsibility for any consequences that may result from their dangerous game of playing with fire near the Middle East powder keg. If the U.S. rulers think that manipulating Israel, their aggressive tool in the region, will put pressure on Syria, make it deviate from its pan-Arab line, confuse it, or turn the agents linked to Camp David and the Reagan plan against it, they are grossly mistaken. This is because Syria does not fear pressure. Syria does not succumb to it, abandon its policy, or compromise. Neither does Syria stop confronting imperialist and Zionist plans with all the means in its power, regardless of the sacrifices needed for success.

If the U.S. rulers' talk about an Israeli war against Syria is intended to put pressure on Syria and its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, then their plan is doomed to failure. However if they are indeed planning to make Israel provoke Syria militarily, then they must know that Syria will defend itself with all the necessary ability and competence, with all the abilities it has and all the means in the hands of its Armed Forces. The aggressors will pay a heavy price for their aggression, because they will not be safe, and there will be no lines or barriers confining the conflict to a certain spot or area. Those who start the fire should expect their fingers to be burned in it.

Within the legitimate right of self-defense, Syria will not hesitate to welcome the solidarity and assistance of its brothers and friends and all those who oppose aggression and the policy of imposing one's will on others by force. The Middle East, dear listeners, has not been and will not be an American state. Just as the U.S. forces failed in their direct intervention in Lebanon, Israel will also fail.

AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN on Confronting Threats

JN150848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Press review]

[Text] *AL-BA'TH* says: Observers are unanimous that the Reagan administration and the Shamir government have a joint and urgent interest in carrying out specific changes in the Middle East, will use all their means to once again confuse the cards in the region, and will carry out a joint military operation against Syria through which the United States and Israel hope to bring back the U.S. role of sabotage in the region, represented by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat's joining the autonomy talks in concert with the Camp David accords, which means the liquidation of the entire Palestinian cause.

AL-BA'TH refers to the recent and intensive U.S. moves toward the Egyptian, Iraqi, and Jordanian regimes, Yasir 'Arafat, and others. The paper recalls what has been published in Western papers — that these regimes have a basic role in the forthcoming U.S. plan whose first objective is to wipe out the Arab forces of liberation and impose the fait accompli on the Arab nation. The Western information media recently mentioned too that the success of the new U.S. course in the region depends entirely on the U.S. capability of checking the Syrian stand against the U.S.-Israeli schemes of aggression. From this premise, it is not far-fetched that the current U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria is only a preldue to an inevitable military operation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria, which has offered many sacrifices and shouldered all the burdens in defense of our Arab nation will remain as the masses of our nation have known it to be, and will continue to sincerely defend the masses' interests, regardless of the sacrifices.

TISHRIN stresses that the Israeli rulers who for some time have believed their invasion of Lebanon had wiped out the Palestinian armed presence, are now anxious and bewildered after their false claims about outside terrorism have collapsed in wake of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories assuming responsibility for dealing painful blows to the Zionist enemy, beginning with the Jerusalem operation, and escalating with the bus operation.

TISHRIN adds: It is only natural that Shamir and the members of his gang search for an outlet and justifications. That is why they accused Damascus, massed their troops in Al-Biqa', and launched a series of threats.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria pays no heed to such threats characterized by overt and blatant blackmail. Syria has supported and continues to support our people in Lebanon and Palestine and is proud of its persistent struggle in defense of the Arab land being exposed to invasion and threats. Syria is determined to confront the barbaric Zionist terrorism and to champion all Arab causes, foremost the sacred Palestinian cause.

AL-BA'TH Says Syria Unafraid of Israeli Threats

JN160712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 16 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "With the Events" daily column, the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* writes:

It can be taken for granted that during the past few months, Israel, with U.S. support if not guidance, has been planning a large-scale aggression against Syria to avenge the military and political defeats inflicted on Tel Aviv and Washington on both the Lebanese and Palestinian levels. By its steadfastness and confrontation of all the plots aimed against the Palestinian and Lebanese causes, Syria has succeeded in foiling all the hostile U.S., Israeli, and reactionary plots, and affirmed that the national, progressive Arab option is the only option in the region.

Syria, which is consolidating its steadfastness and adhering more than ever before to its principles and stands, is not afraid of Israeli threats, be they of Israeli or U.S. origin. Syria's support for both the Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionaries is an irrevocable princple not subject to argument. Syria has always raised this slogan. It does not fear Washington's accusations and Israel's threats. It is a great honor of which all the Arabs are proud. Syria is aware of all the responsibilities that arise from this support. From the beginning of the struggle with Israel, Syria decided to fully shoulder them.

In conclusion, *AL-BA'TH* says: The Israeli threats do not terrify Syria because Syria is aware that the struggle is a very long one. It is ready to confront any mad adventure. It is confident of its ability and of the Arab people's cohesion with it. It is also certain of the support of all the world's liberation and progressive forces for it and the just Arab cause. Israel is also aware of this. Israel will be forced to pause for a long time before committing an aggression from which it knows there is a chance it will not emerge victorious.

TISHRIN: Syria Plays Role of Catalyst in Lebanon

JN160930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 16 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reconciliation: Path of Lebanon's Deliverance," *TISHRIN* says:

After 10 years of the destructive Lebanese war, it is time to pause a while, to analyze and draw conclusions with the aim of contributing to a reasonable solution. Undoubtedly, the U.S.-Israeli fingers were active from the beginning of the war. The aim was to exploit Lebanon to divert attention from activities taking place elsewhere in the Arab world, to be more specific, in Egypt where As-Sadat was beginning his measures. Furthermore, the continuation of the model [an-namudhaj] constitutes a real challenge to Israel's existence as an occupying entity in the heart of the Arab homeland.[sentence as heard]

TISHRIN is of the opinion that over the past years, particularly following its invasion of Lebanon, Israel resorted to realizing two things: ruining the Lebanese entity in an obvious attempt to balkanize Lebanon and transform the region into weak, sectarian entities and creating for itself, inside Lebanon, tools which would be under its command and implement its plans at all times and on all levels. Israel's attempts to ruin Lebanon are understandable. What is not understandable, however, is that some Lebanese parties, under the pretext of loving Lebanon, are contributing toward ruining and destroying Lebanon.

Today, 10 years after the beginning of this destructive war, the will to destroy is continuing under various forms. *TISHRIN* adds: If we want to deduce lessons from the Lebanese crisis, we find that wagering on the Americans and Israelis has proved futile, not to say that they themselves have led to the country's ruination and destruction. It has been proven that adopting the Arab option, and to be more specific, the Syrian option, is the lifeboat of safety and deliverence. Reliance on this option must be coupled with the Lebanese people's perseverance in their efforts to begin a serious, objective dialogue to realize the Lebanese reconciliation, now that Syria has prepared the appropriate positive atmosphere to begin the dialogue.

We in Syria are well aware that despite its importance, the Syrian role is only a catalyst. The more important factor is the Lebanese people's desire to realize accord among themselves and to rebuild new Lebanon, particularly when everyone has agreed that the previous Lebanese formula no longer meets the contemporary requirements.

Concluding its comment, *TISHRIN* says: The important thing for the Lebanese is the crystallization of their will to hold dialogue. This will must continue until this dialogue realizes the cherished hopes. In fact, during the past 10 years many attempts at beginning a serious, effective dialogue were made, the most important of which are the meetings of coordination among the Lebanese parties and forces, the talks which led to crystallizing the constitutional document, and the agreement on the national dialogue committee, which met in Geneva and Lausanne. While reflecting the desire to reach a solution for the Lebanese crisis, these meetings show the presence of certain sides bent on hampering such a solution. These sides should be exposed and uprooted if we want to build new Lebanon.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Delegation 16 Apr

JN162057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 2030 today a delegation from the command of the independent national Lebanese group comprised of Dr Samir Sabbagh, (Sanal) Barraj, and Ahmad al-Halabi. The discussion dealt with the current developments in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Receives Cable From USSR Leadership

JN161923 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Cable to president Hafiz al-Asad from the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium — date not specified]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium warmly congratulate you, O Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, and, in your person, the friendly Syrian people on the 38th anniversary of the evacuation of foreign troops, the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic. Syria's consistent stand and its firmness and perseverance in the struggle against the Israeli aggression encouraged and supported by the United States, and against attempts at imperialist intervention in the affairs of Arab countries gain profound sympathy and respect for your country in the Soviet Union.

Particular importance is attached to the efforts of Syria and its leaders to ally the Arabs together on a partiotic, anti-imperialist basis to realize a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and to foil U.S. and Israeli plans to impose separate deals on the Arabs. The Soviet Union will continue to firmly support the Arab peoples in their struggle for their legitimate rights and interests, and to support Syria in its efforts to strengthen its national independence and to follow the road of progressive, social, and economic development.

We express our belief that Soviet-Syrian relations built on a firm base — the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria — will steadily develop and strengthen for the good of the two countries' peoples and in the interest of international security and real peace in the Middle East. O Comrade President, we wish you happiness and good health and prosperity and progress for the friendly Syrian people.

Syrian-USSR Peace Committees Begin Talks

JN150655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The first session of talks began yesterday evening between a delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace led by Comrade Muminsho Kanoatov, chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Peace and member of the TaSSR Supreme Soviet; and a delegation of the Syrian National Council of the Peace Partisans Movement, led by Ba'th Party National Command member Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj.

During the session, the two reviewed developments in the international arena, as well as the increasing threats posed to world peace and to people's liberation and progress as a result of the imperialist and Zionist forces' policy based on confrontation, aggression, exacerbating the international situation, and escalating the arms race.

Comrade Bajbuj spoke about the Zionist schemes in the region, explaining the prominent role that Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces had performed in foiling these schemes, particularly in abrogating the 17 May agreement and forcing the NATO forces withdrawal from Lebanon. Comrade Bajbuj stressed Syria's principled and unswerving commitment to the policy of steadfastness. He said: Under the Ba'th Party and Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria's course is one of firm confrontation of hegemonist and expansionist schemes in the region. Comrade Bajbuj praised the USSR's stands in support of the Arabs' just causes.

The head of the Soviet delegation spoke about the importance of the Middle East, the increasing dangers that exist in it, and the vanguard role Syria is performing under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the U.S. hegemonic schemes and Zionist designs for expansion. The head of the Soviet delegation denounced the policy of disrupting the balance of powers adopted by U.S. President Reagan's administration. He reiterated his country's firm stand against this dangerous and hostile policy.

Syrian-USSR Friendship Days Begin in Damascus

JN162157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The Syrian-USSR friendship days began in Damascus this evening with an official celebration held by the Arab-USSR Friendship Society in the Soviet Cultural Center in Damascus. The celebration was attended by Ba'th Party Regional Command member Dr Wahib Tannus; Comrade Mikhail Kovalev, first deputy chairman of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Ministers; the members of the friendship society's Executive Bureau; members of the Ba'th Party branches; the ambassadors of friendly socialist countries; the leaders of popular organizations; and a large crowd.

On this occasion, Dr Wahib Tannus delivered a speech in which he spoke about the anniversary of the French colonialists' evacuation from the homeland, and the momentous sacrifices the Syrian Arab people made to achieve this evacuation. Comrade Tannus also spoke about Syria's militant march under the canopy of the 8 March revolution and the glorious Corrective Movement. He praised the existing relations between Syria and the USSR. Comrade Tannus said: We in this steadfast country believe the friendly USSR always supports all the persecuted peoples in the world who aspire to shape their free and dignified future far removed from the imperialist- Zionist policy of aggression in the region.

Dr Tannus also spoke about the Israeli threats against Syria. He said that Syria's contemporary history is simply the history of the Arabs' steadfastness, their future, and their dignity, and that threats do not frighten Syria. Comrade Tannus said: We will strengthen relations with the socialist countries, especially the USSR, and we will continue to develop our country in a progressive and socialist manner.

The deputy chairman of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Ministers delivered a speech in which he praised the Syrian Arab people's struggle, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, against the conspiracies being concocted in the region. He also praised the relations that exist between the two friendly countries in all spheres, stressing they are continuously progressing in the interest both of the two countries and of the forces of progress and liberation in the world.

The USSR official said: The friendship days between our two countries take place on two important occasions — on Evacuation Day, celebrated by Syria; and on the 114th anniversary of the birth of the Soviet leader Lenin, the founder of the state of the workers and the peasants.

Moscow Celebration

JN170655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society held a speech rally in Moscow yesterday on the 38th anniversary of the evacuation of colonialists from Syria. The rally was attended by Pastukhov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the society, the deputy chairmen of the society and a number of its members. Syrian Ambassador in Moscow Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, the embassy staff, the leadership of the Ba'th Party, and a number of Syrian and Arab students in Moscow also attended.

In a speech on this occasion, Comrade Pastukhov hailed Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the imperialist-Zionist schemes which are aimed against Syria because it is the impregnable bastion of the Arab liberation movements and the firm defender of the Arab peoples', Lebanese and Palestinian rights. He stressed the special relations that bind the USSR and Syria, strengthened day by day within the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Concluding his speech, Pastukhov reiterated his country's support for Syria's principled, firm stand in facing the serious Middle East situation resulting from the practices of the U.S. Administration, its agents, and its Israeli ally. He said: Our relations with Syria will be further deepened and strengthened in various fields and on all levels to further the interests of the two peoples in the two fraternal countries.

Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi made a speech in which he reviewed the Syrian people's struggle throughout history and said: Syria, under the Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has occupied a new place in the march of national struggle, realized achievements unprecedented in Syria's history, and occupied an outstanding international position which the world has recognized.

At the end of the rally, a Soviet band of artists presented a number of artistic items on this glorious occasion.

Brutents Talks With Khaddam on Middle East

JN161532 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA) — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received here today Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department. Talks during the meeting revolved around the situation in the Middle East, and cooperation between Syria and the USSR.

Meets With Muhammad Haydar

JN161645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Muhammad Haydar, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the party's foreign relations office, today received Comrade Karen Brutents in the presence of the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. Talk during the meeting revolved around the current political situation in the region, especially the situation in Lebanon after the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and the attempts by the United States and its agents in the region to undermine the victory the nationalist forces and the Arab liberation movement achieved.

During the meeting, the two sides also stressed the importance of strengthening militant cohesion between the socialist countries, led by the friendly Soviet Union on one hand and the Arab liberation movement and nationalist forces on the other, in order to preserve the victories realized and to lead the phase of pan-Arab awakening in the entire Arab arena.

Comrade Brutents praised the existing close relations between the two parties and countries, and reiterated Soviet support for Syria's positions under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

USSR Ambassador in Beirut on Support for Syria

JN141816 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] USSR Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov has asserted that any Israeli attack on Syria will fail because Syria's military force is able to confront Israel.

In a statement carried by the Kuwait newspaper *AS-SIYASAH*, Soldatov said that the treaty of friendship between Syira and the Soviet Union obligates Moscow to stand at Syria's side to prevent Israel from realizing its plans. He added that his Embassy in Lebanon is in constant touch with Moscow and the Soviet Embassy in Damascus to watch the events and the recent developments and consider any possile consequences if Israel launches an agression against Syria or Lebanese territory.

Polish Officials Meet Ash-Shar' 16 Apr

JN162100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' this evening received Jozef Wiejacz, under secretary of state in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister 'Isam an-Na'ib and the Polish ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them. They also discussed the international situation, and the new developments in the region.

Depart Damascus 17 Apr

JN160925 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA) — Jozef Wiejacz, under secretary of state in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left Damascus at 0930 this morning following a visit to Syria. During the visit, he held talks with a number of Syrian officials and signed a cultural cooperation agreement between the two friendly countries.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Id Abduh, assistant minister of foreign affairs; Rashid Shukri, assistant chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Polish ambassador in Damascus.

Polish Education Delegation Holds Talks

JN141626 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1448 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA) — (Barji Badir), deputy director of educational and press cooperation in the Polish Foreign Ministry and head of the Polish educational delegation to the joint Syrian-Polish educational talks, has praised Syria's militant positions against the imperialist and Zionist plans aimed at dominating the Arab region. This came in the speech the head of the Polish delegation delivered during the first round of talks that began between the two sides here today in the presence of 'Id 'Abdu, Syrian assistant minister of education, and Boguslaw Kaczynski, the Polish ambassador in Damascus.

During the talks, the assistant minister of education affirmed these talks are aimed at bolstering and promoting the means of cooperation and signing the implementation program of the educational agreement concluded between Syria and Poland for 1984-85. The two sides also stressed the importance of strengthening the bases of joint cooperation between the two countries in the various scientific, educational, and cultural fields.

The Polish educational delegation arrived in Damascus yesterday on a 5-day visit to Syria.

Hungary's Antal Apro Message to Az-Zu'bi

JN141616 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA) — Antal Apro, president of the Hungarian National Assembly, has stressed his country's support for and solidarity with Syria's struggle and that of the Lebanese nationalist forces against the imperialist- U.S.-Zionist plans, and with the Palestinian people who struggle for the sake of their legitimate rights. This came in a message People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi received during his reception of Hungarian Ambassador in Damascus Zoltan Zsingmond here today.

Antal Apro's message also stresses that any settlement in the region which contradicts the real Arab interests, backs the occupation in Lebanon, and neglects the Palestinian people's national rights, cannot be imposed on the region through military pressure.

During the meeting, the Hungarian ambassador also asserted his country's support for Syria's positions under President Hafiz al-Asad and its just struggle in the battle of liberation and construction.

Az-Zu'bi also expressed Syria's appreciation for Hungary's support for the just Arab issues, and stressed the need to develop the existing relations between the two countries and promote them in the service of the joint interests of the two countries.

Ash-Shar' Receives Visiting Finnish Delegation

JN141514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' this afternoon received (Marmakata Astinus), deputy chairman of the Finnish-Arab group and member of the accompanying parliamentary delegation. Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Euopean desk at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of People's Assembly members attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the talks revolved around the political situation in the region and the efforts that Syria is exerting to help the Lebanese brothers realize national accord. The talks also dealt with the current international situation.

Two Murderers Hanged in Damascus Square 16 Apr

JN160945 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA) — At 0500 today, the criminals Muhammad ibn Ahmad Hamrah and 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Mukhaybar Khalluf, who had committed premeditated homicide during a robbery, were hanged in one of the main squares in Damascus. The two criminals,residents of 'Assal al-Ward in the An-Nabak area, on 11 September 1983 killed three persons in the Haql al-Balat area near the Lebanese border.

MA'ARIV's Harif Cites Prime Minister's Interview

TA130848 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Apr 84 pp 13, 14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "We Will Begin To Leave Lebanon Before the Election," including an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by an unidentified correspondent — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] It is almost certain that the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon will begin before 23 July, which is election day. Apparently there is a possibility of a gradual withdrawal of IDF forces from Lebanon that will "guarantee peace in the Galilee for a long time," as the prime minister phrased it.

When this begins to be implemented, it will be good news for the public. Nevertheless, it seems that this good news, too, will at once be overshadowed by the election campaign. We can already hear it in the election campaign headquarters: The government is not only conducting "election economy," but also an "election policy!"

The campaign appears to be fascinating at the outset because of the appreciable gap in the public opinion polls and the Likud's resulting sense of inferiority. As is well known, one of the Likud's "election experts" — Menahem Begin — is not taking matters lightly. He is not giving advice at this stage, but it is clear that Shamir will one day turn to Begin and try to discuss practical matters with him so as to help the Likud. But from what little Begin does say, we can learn that he is somewhat concerned. All he says — according to those who speak with him — is "we must work" ... "we must act"....

With a feeling of confidence, the prime minister goes on to point to his government's achievements in the field of policy:

[Shamir] The Americans say relations with Israel have never been so good. This is not stopping the Alignment from saying that our political situation is one of the "difficulties." Well, we are not the ones who point to the excellent bilateral relations; it is the Americans. Our relations with Europe have also improved. We have also done something in Africa, and there are matters which cannot, for the moment, be expanded upon.

[Question] What about the Lebanon war?

[Shamir] The achievements are also great in the security field. People throw the "Lebanon war" at us and consciously ignore the great achievements. The campaign's main objective has been attained. There is peace in the Galilee. The terrorists' infrastructure has been destroyed. People come along and tell us: "One way or another terrorists have already returned." What sort of a claim is this, compared with what there was in Lebanon before the Peace for Galilee campaign? Is this the same PLO? Is this the same threatening infrastructure that turned our northern settlements into a hell?

Of course we now have a problem, how to guarantee peace for any length of time when we leave Lebanon. But we will attain this, too.

So Syria succeeded in achieving the abrogation of the treaty with Lebanon, but how will Lebanon benefit from this? What about Syria? It, too, has not scored such a great success. The killing continues and no great Syrian achievements can be seen, if its intention was to bring about peace in accordance with its dictates. We will find ways to solve the problem of Lebanon in anything involving our security. Altogether, the balance is very positive, and all the stories are nonsense.

[Question] So everything is fine? You have no need to be troubled?

[Shamir] I did not say that. But I am convinced that we took the right path. If I am troubled, it is by the very thought that if the Alignment comes to power, that will be a real danger.

[Question] Why?

[Shamir] Look, Egypt and Jordan are sharpening their knives. They are not concealing the fact that they want the Alignment in power. If, heaven forbid, it does come to power, only then will the assault begin. They will tell it: Keep your promise by leaving Judaea and Samaria, and Lebanon. The Americans will also go to the Alignment, which has not rejected the Reagan plan, and demand that it enter into negotiations. Over what? Over the Reagan plan, which could lead to a Palestinian state! The Administration is still claiming that it supports that plan, but it also knows that it is not worth much. "In another 2 years there will be nothing to talk about," they said, and what they meant was that the facts being created in Judaea and Samaria will leave no room for negotiations. It is true, give us another term in office, and there will be nothing to talk about!

I know they are trying to make the settlements — something wonderful established by the Zionist project — into something abhorrent. They are inciting the underprivileged by saying that "all the money is going into the settlements." That lie, too, we will shatter into fragments. We have supported settlement, but not, under any circumstances, at their expense and we will prove what the Likud has done in the field of housing and accommodation for the underprivileged.

[Question] You sound confident, Mr Prime Minister; are you not too confident?

[Shamir] The municipal elections proved that we have not lost a single position. If we lost something, it was mainly because of a local quarrel and splitting up into factions. The development towns are loyal to us. Their inhabitants know that we are not haughty like the Alignment. We better represent the people because we are part of them. We have genuine equality. For us, the people from the municipalities are full partners. Only today people from these areas visited me and told me something interesting: During the Alignment's time the government dealt with our emancipation, now we have self-emancipation. Full partners. What pride!

My son commands soldiers from development towns, and he told me their progress is enormous. And this is what is important for us. And they feel it. The Alignment had and has the elitist approach... arrogance!

[Question] So you are absolutely calm.

[Shamir] No. I fear that if we lose, the entire settlement project we have established in Judaea and Samaria will degenerate. They will make it degenerate!

[Question] Who are 'they?'

[Shamir] Shim'on Peres said "We will not remove settlements." They do not have to be removed, they can degenerate without removing them. It is no wonder that Bruno Kreisky, like the Egyptians and such people as Husayn and Frayj (the mayor of Bethlehem) are waiting for the Alignment!

In the prime minister's opinion "the world has already become accustomed" to the reality of Judaea and Samaria:

[Shamir] I meet with various foreign ministers and it is true that they raise the issue, but they are speaking to the wall and they accept the situation. If the Alignment comes along everything will be aroused again!

Defense Minister Arens Interviewed on Current Issues

Lebanon Withdrawal, Syria

TA141240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Alan Ben-'Ami "a short time before the bus hijacking;" place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ben-'Ami] Israel has made it clear that a withdrawal depends on how well the security arrangements have worked out in southern Lebanon. I gather this to a large extent depends on how well the southern Lebanese army develops. The new commander of the army has said he'd like to see his force tripled to about 6,000 men and then he feels he could do the job well. Israeli and Lebanese involved in the force say it could take up to a year before the force is capable of going it on its own. Does this look like a realistic timetable for an Israeli stay in Lebanon, another year?"

[Arens] I think it's probably too early to tell and I do not think it is essential to think only in terms of a single move that will bring the entire IDF back home. It's possible that certain areas in Lebanon would be turned over to the southern Lebanese army and, in that manner, decrease the area in which the IDF is deployed and, therefore, decrease the load that this represents on our army. General Lahhad, I think, is a very important contribution to the scene. He is, as you know, a major general in the Lebanese Army, now retired, and has been one of the leading military figures in Lebanon, a man of stature, a man of leadership, and a man we're hoping will be able to build the southern Lebanese army and give it the leadership that will enable it to take on as early as possible and as large as possible the task of policing the area of southern Lebanon, of maintaining law and order in that area, of making sure that there not be any terrorist activities held against Israel. And I hope that we will be able to see the results of that in a time period far shorter than a year.

[Ben-'Ami] Where does this leave the role, if there is any, of the Lebanese authorities in the future, of the Lebanese Army and also of UNIFIL? UNIFIL's mandate is now up for extension.

[Arens] I think if we are talking about the southern Lebanese army, there is also the fact that it is clear at the present time that the Lebanese Army does not seem to have the capability to perform a function in southern Lebanon. It is well known that it is for some time now that we were ready to turn southern Lebanon over to the Lebanese Army, counting on their ability to prevent hostile activity from southern Lebanon against Israel. If this was not done it was not because we were hesitant about it, but because the Lebanese Army simply was not capable of performing this function.

[Ben-'Ami] What about UNIFIL as a possible substitute at the request of the Lebanese Government?

[Arens] We are keeping all options open and we are ready to look at any and all possibilities. Our experience with UNIFIL, unfortunately, has not been good in southern Lebanon. As a matter of fact, we found out that the UNIFIL forces reached in effect understandings, if not agreements, with the PLO in the area and permitted them to deploy in the area, and permitted them to enter and leave the area with their weaponry. So, there isn't a very high level of confidence here that UNIFIL would do better in the future. This is not meant as any disrespect to the United Nations or to the countries that have sent contingents to the area. I think it has been shown that international forces, not only UNIFIL, can function and function well only if all sides to the conflict want them to be there and want them to function well. The UN forces that are in the area of separation between the Israeli army and the Syrian Army in the Golan Heights function very well, does a very good job — they are called UNDOF [United Nations Disengagement Observer Force] — and the condition for them doing a good job is that both the Syrians and the Israelis want them to be there and they want them to do a good job. The problem in Lebanon is that you find that there are armed units, whether it is PLO or some of the local militias, who are not interested in the UN force being there and would like to get the UN force to leave and who are ready to use their weaponry to get them to leave. The international forces in the past, and I think in the future as well, have not been sent there with a mandate to fight. They were sent there with a mandate to police.

[Ben-'Ami] Would you like to see them sent there with a mandate to fight? Do you think it's possible?

[Arens] I don't think it's possible. No, I don't think it's possible and it doesn't matter whether you are talking about UNIFIL or whether you are talking about the Multinational Force that was in the Beirut area.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you feel that the role the United Nations plays on the Golan Heights between Syrian and Israeli forces — Israel is interested in seeing a similar role between Syrian and Israeli forces in the eastern sector of Lebanon but it appears that this is not in the cards. [sentence as heard] What about the possibility that has been suggested of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal in the eastern sector and, at the same time, putting down very strict red line warnings for the Syrians?

[Arens] No, you've got to be very careful about red line warnings because they may be the first step toward a war and we are not interested in a war. We definitely think that a separation of forces in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon would be a good thing for Israel and Syria. The way that we could bring about this kind of separation of forces and ensure stability in the area would be by having an international force, a UN force, deployed between the Israeli and Syrian armies. We think that this is something that would be good for Israel and for Syria because — I am going on the assumption — neither country wants an uncontrolled escalation. We do not want any kind of escalation but even if for the moment I would say that the Syrians are interested in an escalation at some time, I would assume that they are not interested in an uncontrolled escalation. This very close proximity of military forces could bring about an uncontrolled escalation, could bring about an accidental breaking out of hostilities. That was the logic behind the UNDOF forces in the Golan Heights and, therefore, I think there is a great deal of logic for UN forces in Lebanon and I am hoping that the Syrians will see that logic.

[Ben-'Ami] But you don't accept the argument put forward even by some members of the opposition Labor Party — some of them military men themselves — that it would be possible to make a unilateral pullback and that the Syrians have shown in the past that they do respect red lines?

[Arens] Well, you have to weigh very carefully, you know, the risk that you take upon yourself by doing that. There is clearly the possibility that if you carry out a unilateral pullback you'll find the Syrians following in your wake and before you know it you'll be sitting there again, Israeli tanks facing Syrian tanks only a lot closer to Metulla. I am surprised if some of the Labor Party spokesmen don't understand that.

[Ben-'Ami] This week we have had an almost constant battery of warnings and criticisms from Syria and from the Soviet Union regarding the possibilities of a conflict — as they see it, an Israeli-initiated conflict — an Israeli-initiated military move against Syria. What contacts have we been carrying out in order to try and get the message through? As you say, we are not interested in any escalation at all. Are you not concerned that the escalation may in fact come from the other side, that this may be some sort of cover as has been in the past for a move by Syria backed by the Soviets?

[Arens] Well, that's always a possibility. I think that even given the uncertainties of that kind of a situation and some of the innate suspicions that exist on both sides of the border, I think that it is clear in Damascus that Israel does not want a war, that Israel wouldn't start a war, that there is no need to be concerned as far as that is concerned. We have some concern because we feel we can't say the same for the Syrians. Syria is a dictatorship, a military dictatorship. The Syrian ruler has talked frequently about his hostility toward Israel, insists that he is in a state of war with Israel. He certainly is not ready to carry on any kind of negotiations leading to a peace settlement with Israel. He is building up a very large army; he is quite ready to use force inside Syria as he did in Hamah where 20,000 to 30,000 people were killed. Outside Syria, as he has done it in Lebanon, he is ready to use terror as was the case when they assassinated Bashir al-Jumayyil. There is no aversion to the use of force in Damascus. Therefore, we know that the only deterrent to the use of force against Israel is the knowledge in Damascus that they stand no chance, that they would get beaten, that we have an army and we have tactics and we have weaponry that they simply are not capable of contending with. But there is always the risk of miscalculation and, at the present time, there is considerable instability in Syria. There is in the background a struggle for power, for who is going to be Hafiz al-Asad's heir. On the one hand, it's possible that concentrating on internal power politics they will have no time or energy to think in terms of going to war against Israel. That's the optimistic view of things and we hope that that's the case. But, in dictatorships we know that the opposite is also possible, that just because there may be some internal instability they may conclude that the way to reunify the country is by going to war against the enemy abroad. So, we've got our guard up and we are alert. Hopefully, everything will pass quietly.

[Ben-'Ami] One proposal that came up to try and find some solution to the West Bank problem was the autonomy proposal, the autonomy for the Palestinians of Judaea and Samaria involving Egypt and involving Jordan at some stage as well. This seems to be something of a dead letter. Where do you think we can go from here? How can we try and solve the issue of the Palestinians and the issue of peace between Israel and Jordan as well?

[Arens] We have the Camp David agreement and its commitment that Israel and Egypt, and to some extent the United States, took upon themselves and it is based on that commitment that Israel withdrew from the Sinai. So, I think it is something that should not be lightly tossed out the window. That is the only agreement that we have at the present time, even though many of us may consider it to be imperfect and even though additional negotiations are required before some of the aspects of the agreement can be implemented on the ground. But I think it is something that we have to continue to do, we, the Israelis, and the Egyptians who are party to the agreement. I can't tell you that I'm terribly optimistic that we are going to be able to do this during the next month or even during the next year. The reason I'm not terribly optimistic is because it is clear that the Egyptians are not very enthusiastic about returning to the negotiating table and carrying out the negotiations that are called for in the Camp David agreement.

So I don't know that there is going to be a political resolution of problems here in the near future. I think it's difficult to be optimistic about it. That being the case, I think it is very important that we make a determined effort — we being Jews and Arabs who live in the area — to find the ways and means of living peacefully together in the meantime. That has been my message to most of the Arab notables that I've met and I found that most of them have tended to agree with me. I've said to them: It looks like there is not going to be a political solution in the near future. We may have disagreements as to what this solution should be but I think we probably agree that there is not going to be one in the near future. That being the case, we must make every effort to, in the meantime, live together peacefully, to understand that violence will not advance a political solution. Quite the contrary, violence will put increased distance between us and any political solution. Alternately, if we do live in peace, if we have a period of tranquility, if we have a rise in the standard of living, a rise in the quality of living, a rise in neighborliness, I think we are setting the stage and we are laying the foundations for eventually reaching a political solution.

Egyptian Fortifications in Sinai

TA151547 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by anchorman Dan Margalit on the daily "New Evening" program]

[Excerpt] [Margalit] Professor Arens, Shim'on Schiffer reported on the Voice of Israel today that you briefed the Cabinet on a large Egyptian military infrastructure that is being built in the Sinai, perhaps not exactly in accordance with the agreements. Could you tell us exactly what is involved?

[Arens] With all due respect to Shim'on Schiffer, he does not attend Cabinet sessions, and did not get any report from me. In fact, I did not report on an Egyptian Army infrastructure in the Sinai, but I can tell you what happens there because I have talked about it openly, not only in Cabinet sessions. The annex to the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement stipulates the limitations to be imposed on the Egyptian Army in the Sinai — that is, east of the Suez Canal. In fact, the Egyptians may maintain east of the Suez Canal — in what is known as Area A — no more than one mechanized division. The annex also mentions how many tanks or armored personnel carriers or artillery pieces they may have there. The annex does not, however, define the infrastructure when it comes to entrenchments and fortifications.

Over the years — this is not something that has occured in the past week, but I would say is a process that has been under way for 3 years — the Egyptian Army has been building an infrastructure of fortifications for a military unit of the size of an army. This creates the ability for a force much larger than a division to enter the Sinai within a very short period and be absorbed in that infrastructure. Throughout this time we have been protesting, saying that this is a violation of the agreement — some would say that this is a breach of the spirit of the agreement, while the Egyptians claim that it is no violation since the agreement does not mention fortifications. We, however, do regard this as a violation of the agreement.

Peres Interviewed on Lebanon, Settlements

TA161152 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Apr 84 pp 16,17

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by M. Refa'el — date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Refa'el] In your opinion, what should the Alignment do about Lebanon? Withdraw to the international border at once?

[Peres] First of all, a decision must be made. In my estimation, nondecision has become the government decision. This is a government that does not decide. I read in the papers that the government is still not ready, that the prime minister is asking the chief of staff for brilliant ideas. This sounds somewhat strange to me. There are brilliant ideas that the political echelons should provide. There are decisions that the political echelons should make, with the military echelons advising.

We incline toward these decisions: To organize an early warning system in southern Lebanon, which will have land, air, sea, and intelligence elements in it. We have sufficient means and experience to know in "real time" everything that occurs in southern Lebanon. In time such an early warning system naturally becomes a deterrent system. If the terrorists know that we know of every one of their movements immediately, they will have to think very, very hard about whether to go back there or not. If this early warning system informs us that there is an attempt by terrorists to return, the IDF will cross the border, as a rapid, vigorous army, and repel them. For this, it is not necessary for the IDF to stay on Lebanese soil and act as a target for attacks.

We are also in favor of expanding what are now called Haddad's forces, the southern army of Lebanon. It is our evaluation that almost all the sects in southern Lebanon are interested in such relations with Israel so that the IDF will have no excuse to return there. This way the Galilee's peace will be guaranteed.

[Refa'el] From your knowledge of the situation in southern Lebanon, is it not certain that a short time after the IDF withdraws, terrorists will infiltrate there and then the IDF will have to go back?

[Peres] Not necessarily. First of all, there are terrorists today, too. A considerable number of people have been hit this month. Today, too, there are attacks, even Katyusha fire. There are at least three former chiefs of staff in the Alignment leadership, a former prime minister, and a former defense minister. We know the territory and the assessments. This is one of the issues on which we are all united in our opinion of what should be done.

[Refa'el] The solution you are proposing is very similar in its general lines to that being proposed by the government. What is the difference between you on this point?

[Peres] First, the government said that Syria would withdraw. The government has retreated from that. Afterward it retreated from what it said about the need for a strong government in Lebanon. The government has retreated, but not from its positions. Its positions were and still are statements that contain no decisions. The government has built up a defense system along the Al-Awwali which cost tens of millions of dollars. A decision must be made. If we are remaining, a defense line is needed. If we are to retreat, no such system need be built. The government has both built a defense system and given it up. All this within a few months. We have no feeling that somebody is sitting and systematically planning, preparing a comprehensive program. Matters are being conducted from hand to mouth, from one day to another.

[Refa'el] In the Labor Party, too, there have been people who said that it was not good for the Alignment to be the one calling for an accelerated withdrawal from Lebanon, since afterward it will be blamed if Katyushas fall in the north again.

[Peres] Katyushas are already falling in the north. As well as peace for Galilee, there is also peace for Jerusalem. The event in Jerusalem is especially disturbing. In addition, our soldiers are falling. It is the security benefit, not the electoral benefit, that will determine our position.

[Refa'el] On the Lebanese issue, the Alignment has spoken in several voices in the Knesset and the press. Yosi Sarid's views have been heard and, at the other extreme, another view. This is an old problem for you: different voices from opposite ends of the camp. Your critics claim that it is not clear what the Alignment position is.

[Peres] I am tired of this talk, of these claims. The Alignment has one position, even if there are several voices. We do not have a thousand positions, not even two. We have one position. The Alignment, in the clearest possible way, gave its support to a limited campaign of 40 km, of 30 days — and back home. Since then, the Alignment opposed the expansion of the war, its continuation, its complications, and its cost.

This is the Alignment's only position. If another voice is heard, so what? Are no other voices heard from the Likud? We are democratic and pluralistic parties. The picture in the Likud is much worse. With them, one minister attacks another. For example, it is impossible to say that Tzipori's views were much more comfortable than those of Sharon. Or the other way around.

[Refa'el] The Likud wants to claim that this election campaign is over the future of Eretz Yisra'el, the danger confronting Eretz Yisra'el if the Alignment comes to power.

[Peres] In my opinion there certainly is a fight, not over Eretz Yisra'el but over the State of Israel. Eretz Yisra'el was always there, even when there were no Jews here. The Jewish state will not exist without a Jewish majority and therefore the genuine fight is over the Jewish state.

[Refa'el] If you return to power you will find the settlement map of Judaea and Samaria different from the map you wanted to draw up. What will you do with the deviant settlements, those not in the security zones according to your belief. Have these not already bound your hands in possible negotiations with Jordan?

[Peres] We will leave those settlements where they are. Everything changes. Not only we, but the Arabs, too, have built during that time and changed things. We cannot begin negotiations from a situation that does not exist. We can discuss from the existing situation. Here, too, when we analyze the map, it turns out that the headlines are bigger than the settlements. There are altogether about 30,000 settlers in Judaea and Samaria today, of whom almost 4,000 are in the Jordan Rift valley, in which we supported and still support settlement. Some 4,000 others are in Gush 'Ezyon, which we have also always seen as part of the State of Israel. There are about 11,000 in Ma'ale Adummim, a settlement we started planning and establishing. This means that almost 20,000 are in places which we ourselves initiated and planned.

[Refa'el] But a third of the settlers are on hilltops in densely populated regions where you are opposed to settlement. Has the Likud not achieved its objective, since what has been done in that area cannot now be undone?

[Peres] Let them stay there, if that is what there is after 7 years of the Likud. I thought the Likud had declared it would bring a million people to Judaea and Samaria. Afterward they dropped to 100,000. Now there are 30,000 there. Altogether, the Likud is declaration, it is talk. But in the meantime there have also been retreats in Galilee, in the development towns. In addition, there is no Greater Eretz Yisra'el without greater immigration. Now immigration has almost come to a stop. There is no immigration. And, shamefully and regretfully, there are some 20,000 immigrants who are still in absorption centers after 3 years. Can no houses be found for them? Is that dealing with immigration?

[Refa'el] After listening to King Husayn's latest statements, do you still believe the "Jordanian option" is alive and kicking?

[Peres] It is not a question of belief. I ask myself another question. Does Jordan need peace or does it want to give it up? In my opinion it needs peace no less than we do, perhaps more. Do they have another neighbor for this, apart from Israel? Do we have another neighbor, apart from Jordan? With whom do people want us to conduct negotiations — the Queen of Sheba? What is this all about? In my opinion, anyone who does not look at the map and does not understand what is happening is running away from reality. A policy of shutting off the ways to peace will lead to another, unavoidable war. One of our tasks, without fearing and without panicking, is to make a very serious attempt to prevent a return to the cycle of war. After the agreement with Egypt the Likud came out with the slogan: no more war. The voices have not yet died down and we are already involved in a very expensive war in Lebanon.

[Refa'el] What will we talk about with Husayn? About what sort of compromise?

[Peres] We will talk about reaching a peace agreement in stages or at once, according to the possibilities. There may be an interim stage. With Egypt, too, we did not make peace in one leap. We will meet with them without preconditions. We will ask for an agreement that will give us the security factor, without which everything is impossible; Israel's security border begins, in my view, on the Jordan River. On the other hand, we will rid ourselves of the need to manage the affairs of the Arab inhabitants. Let them manage themselves. There could be an arrangement similar to autonomy.

[Refa'el] Do you not share the feeling that Husayn has no interest in managing the West Bank and would be happy to hand over not only conducting the negotiations, but also control in the field, to the Palestinians?

[Peres] I do not share any such feeling. In 1977, in a television confrontation, Mr Begin said there was no chance of As-Sadat coming to conduct negotiations. I was very happy when several months later it was Mr Begin who went to receive As-Sadat at Lod.

[Refa'el] In the sphere of relations between us and the United States, do you want to see different relations from those recently being formulated? Despite the disputes, aid to Israel has again been increased and discussions on strategic cooperation are being deepened.

[Peres] The question is not one of strategic cooperation, but a common strategy. Joint maneuvers at sea? The United States holds joint maneuvers with Jordan and also with Egypt. There is nothing special in this. This cannot guarantee that the United States will stand at our side against a Palestinian state, against the PLO, in favor of security operations. In 1976, in negotiations with the United States, we insisted that the United States guarantee not to conduct negotiations with the PLO, and this government also relies on such an arrangement.

Rabin Presents Alignment Defense Platform

TA141056 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Interview with Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal "in the middle of the week, before the bus hijacking;" place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Mr Rabin, the election campaign will begin soon. There is no doubt that the positions of the Alignment and the Likud on defense issues will arouse great interest. How are your defense concepts different from the Likud's?

[Rabin] The war in Lebanon has sharpened the differences between the defense concepts of the Likud and the Alignment in two central areas. The State of Israel's paramount security need, and the IDF's main objective, is to defend the country in the face of the over-all military might of the Arab countries. In other words, the objective is to ensure the existence of Israel, the security of its borders, and the safety of its vital interests.

The second objective refers to day-to-day security, namely, antiterrorist activities and achievements that can be scored in this area.

As for the IDF's main objective, the war in Lebanon was conducted by the Likud government based on an approach that called for initiating a war to achieve political and other far-reaching achievements. We should remember the phrase that reverberated through Malkey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv: The peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel will be signed by the end of 1982. It was an illusion to think that the IDF could be used to initiate a war to enforce peace and reach a far-reaching objective.

In contrast, we say that the IDF's mission is first and foremost to serve as a deterrent against war or to prevent wars. Israel has no reason to want a war with any Arab country in the present circumstances. Were such a war forced on us, we would bring it to a rapid conclusion. To sum up, the IDF's deterrent ability and its winning tradition must bring about a transfer of the Israeli-Arab conflict from the battlefield to the negotiating table.

As for day-to-day security, there is room for and a need to act against Arab Palestinian terrorism in such a way as to reduce to a minimum our vulnerability and to mete out maximum punishment to those who attack or try to attack us. We should not, however, foster the illusion that there will be no more Katyushas or that the land will be quiet for 40 years. We should prevent a return to the situation that prevailed in southern Lebanon when the area was totally controlled by the PLO and it could deploy 100 to 150 artillery pieces, aimed constantly at our settlements and operated on Mr 'Arafat's orders. This must be prevented, but we should not entertain illusions that the entire problem of terrorism can be solved in one go. In other words, we should take a sober look at the huge military might and the circumstances when it should be put to use: to prevent war or to win a war forced on us, and to reduce to a minimum the damage caused by terrorism. We should give up the illusion that terrorism can be eradicated once and for all in a one-time operation.

[Tal] Lebanon is then the central issue. Mr Rabin, nearly 2 years have passed since the war and no end to it or our involvement in Lebanon is in sight. The IDF is deployed along the Al-Awwali River and prevents terrorist infiltrations, but it is mainly occupied with defending itself. What sort of solution do you see there?

[Rabin] First of all, we must make it crystal clear to ourselves that the IDF should no longer remain in Lebanon to be used to influence Lebanon's political future, namely, the kind of government in Beirut. Instead, the IDF should limit itself to the security issue.

Secondly, the limited issue of security must be resolved in a relatively short period of time or 3 to 6 months after the decision has been made and in such a way that the IDF would not have to maintain a permanent presence in Lebanon. This may be achieved by significantly strengthening the southern army of Lebanon, by arriving at an agreement whereby UNIFIL takes over the areas vacated earlier by the IDF in southern Lebanon and those we are still holding today — first of all in those areas near the Syrians and in other parts of Lebanon more to the northwest, such as in the Tyre area. UNIFIL must concentrate in those areas while the southern army of Lebanon should deploy, primarily in the security strip close to our border.

Third, the IDF must maintain its freedom of action, in the event that the southern army of Lebanon cannot prevent the emergence of terrorist concentrations or Syrian infiltrations. The Syrians, the Lebanese, and the world at large must know that, notwithstanding our intention to withdraw from Lebanon, we will not flee and we will not leave before completing security arrangements to ensure the well-being of the northern settlements and inhabitants. We must reserve for ourselves the freedom of action to return if the circumstances change.

[Tal] Are you pleased with the pace at which the southern army of Lebanon is developing?

[Rabin] No. In my opinion, we wasted an entire year because the government's policy was anchored in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, which from its inception had no practical significance. Had we appealed to the inhabitants of southern Lebanon at that time and begun to base security for the settlements on their cooperation — including their participation in the southern army of Lebanon — we would have a totally different situation today. Today it is more difficult, but it is still possible.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, how do you regard the threat posed by the Syrians, their involvement in the terrorist activities in the eastern sector, and their attacks in Israel?

[Rabin] Syria's policy is basically hostile, primarily on the political level but the military potential is also there. In fact, if we look around us Syria is the country most hostile toward Israel. At the same time, I believe that our policy should be based on a decision that there is no reason — certainly not in the present circumstances — for initiating a war or for stepping up tension between Israel and Syria in general and in Lebanon in particular. Just the same, I would not suggest that anybody predict what the Syrians might or might not do. We must be prepared for such an eventuality and, at the same time, we must reduce our areas of friction. This particularly refers to areas where third parties may also have a say and I am talking about the present lines in the Al-Biqa'. Within the framework of a comprehensive concept vis-a-vis solving the problem in southern Lebanon, it is my contention that UNIFIL troops will agree to fill the vacuum created after the IDF's withdrawal and establish a buffer to reduce friction.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, perhaps because of Syrian dominance in this area if should be the target for our attempts at a dialogue.

[Rabin] To my deep regret, due to its extremist positions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, its support for the PLO, its being the key country for Soviet policy, and the large Soviet support it enjoys, I do not think it would be wise to base Israeli policy in the near future on an effort for political negotiations with Syria. In order to achieve such a situation — and I believe we will in the distant future, we must create the proper conditions. First of all, we must reach an understanding with at least one other Arab country, in addition to Egypt, before we can hold a dialogue with Syria.

[Tal] Who then should be Israel's target in this arena? In which direction does the Alignment want to aim its efforts on this issue?

[Rabin] Both according to the Camp David accords and, what is more, according to the political situation, there is only one addressee: Jordan. Jordan is the main and almost sole partner to peace negotiations on our eastern border. Of course, once Jordan decides to join the process it will bring along representatives of the Palestinian leadership in the territories. These representatives must participate in the negotiations. I believe that 1984, in view of the fact that it is an election year in the United States and the possibilities for a political breakthrough are slim, must be used for two things: to reduce the urgency of the Lebanese issue and remove it from the Middle East political agenda and to create the basis for Jordan to join the negotiations in 1985.

[Tal] How does the intention to bring Jordan to the negotiating table fit in with the settlements in the territories? Do you suggest that these settlements should be evacuated?

[Rabin] No. As you know, the Alignment governments were the first to establish settlements. We never thought and we do not accept the view that settlements are an obstacle to peace. Incidentally, the settlements in the Sinai were also not an obstacle to peace. I do not want what happened in the Sinai to recur. Our position on this issue is that settlements must not be uprooted.

To our regret, the Likud government has set up settlements over which there is no national consensus. We have supported and we continue to support the establishment of settlements along the confrontation lines in the Jordan Rift valley because this would be a confrontation line according to our concept as well. We have been proved right and we will fight as much as we can to make the Jordan River the security border of the State of Israel, even in the event that a peace treaty is signed with Israel. Such a treaty would include the Jordan Rift valley and the eastern slopes of the Judaea and Samaria mountains. We are in favor of settlements there. Even if a peace treaty is signed, however, we will demand the continued existence of the settlements established by the Likud governments in densely populated areas in the center of Judaea and Samaria, even if under Jordanian sovereignty.

[Tal] The last issue will deal with the IDF. The army has recently gone through some difficult experiences, ranging from a war to a reorganization and budget cuts. There was a considerable impact on various areas, ranging from training to armament; much has also been said about soldiers volunteering for army careers and other issues. How do you think all these problems can be tackled?

[Rabin] The defense budget has not been and should not be a sacred cow. At the same time, one should bear in mind that a significant budget cut represents a cut in the military strength of the State of Israel. The first question called for is then: For what purpose? If this is really being done to restore economic health and to change the national order of priorities, then it is all right. In that case, however, defense policy must by definition raise the threshold for a conflagration. We cannot prolong our presence in Al-Biqa' in the current deployment and at the same time cut the defense budget. It is impossible to think in terms of what led this government to wage a war in Lebanon and at the same time cut the defense budget. In other words, for a certain period of time we must adapt the defense policy to the budget cuts.

[Tal] Let us, perhaps, discuss two points relevant to this issue. What priority should be given in the allocation of funds to this large and complex apparatus, in terms of armament and the production and development of the Lavi?

[Rabin] The first priority should be quality albeit not ignoring quantity. As far as I am concerned, quality is first of all the human factor. Then comes the problems of equipment, warfare means, and all those components of military strength that are of utmost importance in the battlefield: the Air Force, the tanks, electronic equipment, and so on.

The decision to manufacture the Lavi in Israel and the commitments made in this context to the United States cannot be undone and is more relevant from the economic and technological point of view than that of security; after all, these or similar aircraft may be purchased. The decision to develop and manufacture them in Israel, however, makes things difficult for us in the short run but gives momentum to Israel's technological development and production.

Arye Eli'av Forms Independent List for Knesset

TA151334 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Arye (Lova) Eli'av, who was formerly secretary of the Labor Party and an MK on its behalf, announced that he is running for the Knesset at the head of an independent list. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that at a news conference held in Tel Aviv, Eli'av said that he has waited for a month for a sign from the Labor Party to return to his mother party, and since he received no message, he decided to run on his own.

Egypt-USSR Contacts Will Not Lead to Envoy Exchange

JN161700 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Soviet sources in Cairo today expressed the belief that today's meeting between Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East desk at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, would not lead to exchanging ambassadors in the near future. The sources confirmed the Soviet stand that the initiative to resume relations between Egypt and the USSR at the ambassadorial level must come from Egypt, because Egypt is the one that severed relations between the two countries. Polyakov, who met with Dr Ghali today, was the last Soviet ambassador in Cairo. He was expelled from Egypt 2 and 1/2 years ago.

In another development, the sources asserted that Egyptian-Soviet relations have improved since President Mubarak assumed power.

'Terrorist Organizations Lopsided Logic' Scored

JN161800 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 16 Apr 84

["Observation" by Sadoq Ben Me'ir]

[Text] The terrorist organizations adopt a lopsided logic and are not ashamed to proclaim it either to the people or in international forums. A so-called Fatah movement responsible source has warned Israel of the consequences of going through with what he termed terrorist actions in the wake of the hijacking of the Israeli bus. He also held Israel responsible for what took place, because it refused to respond to the terrorists' demands.

The PFLP organization belonging to George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine belonging to Nayif Hawatimah went even further in their attempt to outbid the lopsided logic of the official Palestinian source. The two organizations sent a joint memorandum to the UN secretary general blaming Israel for the consequences of this operation, including the victims. Based on this lopsided logic, the Israeli security forces should have told the terrorists: Welcome among us. Proceed with God's blessings, and we will respond to all of your demands. These terrorist leaders should have gone further by saying that it was Israel which invited these terrorists but did not rise to the level of the invitation and did not accord them the welcome they deserve.

Yes, this is their lopsided logic and these are their reckless actions. The result is known, as it has been known during all of the past incidents. Israel cannot give in to terrorism, and will not allow the terrorists to tamper with the security and safety of its citizens. The terrorist organizations are not concerned about sending Palestinian youths to their doomed death. Those responsible for such operations are those officials who are enjoying a life of luxury and leisure while others are being buried, and who are committing all of these crimes against the Palestinian people while they are aware that these operations will not and cannot serve their cause. They tried their luck in the past but returned empty-handed from all of their adventures. These Palestinian leaders or Arab leaders who applaud terrorism are mistaken if they believe that anything will dissuade Israel from having machinations backfire on their originators.

Ilia Appointed Lebanon Liaison Unit Chief

TA142015 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia was appointed yesterday the commander of the IDF liaison unit in southern Lebanon. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that the unit will be responsible, among other things, for the organization and training of the southern army of Lebanon.

Our correspondent recalls that Brig Gen Ilia was forced to leave his previous position as head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria due to a series of felonies he had committed, but that the IDF believes he should not be prevented from holding another job.

March Consumer Price Index Rises 10.7 Percent

TA151515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 apr 84

[Text] Last month the consumer price index rose by 10.7 percent. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the index rose by more than 240 percent over the past 12 months. In the first 3 months of the year, the index exceeded 42 percent. The food price index grew in March by 12 percent, and that of fruit and vegetables by 11 percent.

The cost of maintaining an apartment and the prices of transportation and communication grew by 12.7 percent. The industry's wholesale price index again grew more than the consumer price index, reaching 11.7 percent. The prices of housing construction input rose by 7.6 percent.

The cost-of-living increment that the salaried workers in Israel will be paid in their next paycheck in early May will reach 38.2 percent. This is reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe. That rate was determined in accordance with last month's consumer price index rise. The representatives of the industrialists and the Histadrut signed an agreement on the payment of that increment about an hour ago in Tel Aviv.

OAU Consultations on 20th Summit Continue

AB131352 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The OAU Secretariat is continuing consultations with heads of state and government on the date and venue for the 20th OAU summit. This was diclosed by the organization's representative in Ghana, E. Albatt, in an interview with a GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent in Accra today. He said the decision was taken at a mini summit in Conakry during the funeral of the late President Sekou Toure.

The new Guinean Government has, however,expressed its willingness to hold the summit but political observers say it might be postponed and the venue changed. The summit is scheduled to take place next month in Conakry.

ALGERIA

Swedish Foreign Minister Bodstrom Arrives

LD161258 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Algiers, 16-4-84 (APS) — Mr Lennart Bodstrom, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, arrived yesterday in Algiers at the head of an important delegation for a four-day-official visit to Algeria.

During his stay, Mr Lennart Bodstrom will be audienced by the president of the Republic and have talks with his Algerian counterpart. The Swedish minister will also hold talks with the ministers of trade, hydraulics, environment and forestries, planning and national development as well as with the president of the People's National Assembly.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister As-Sabah Arrives in Algiers

LD161257 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Apr, KUNA — Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has announced that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, arrived (?today) in the Algerian capital on 1-day visit.

He will have talks, he added, with Algerian officials on all issues of interest to both countries and particularly the issues of the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war.

It is expected, he added, that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will leave Algeria tomorrow, heading for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to hold talks with the officials there on the same issues.

LIBYA

British Police 'Open Fire' on People's Bureau

LD171249 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London was this morning subjected to a most horrible terrorist action in violation of all international laws and traditions on the part of the British Government. The British police, supported by a helicopter and Libyan and other foreign agents of the British intelligence, stormed the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in the British capital and opened fire on members of the bureau and arrested a number of people working in it.

In the face of this planned terrorist operation, the workers of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau had to defend themselves against the armed aggression by the British police and British agents and defend the Libyan Arab People's Bureau, which represents a part of the Libyan Arab territory.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Algerian Information Minister

LD161349 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, received today Brother Bachir Rouis, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of information, and the personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general.

Brother Bachir Rouis handed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Rouis Departs Tripoli

LD170936 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 17, April 17 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Bachir Rouis, member of the National Liberation Front, minister of information and personal envoy of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, left Tripoli yesterday.

In a press release to JANA reporter at Tripoli International Airport the envoy said that his talks in the Jamahiriyah were in the framework of consultation and exchange of news between the leadership of the Jamahiriyah and Algeria on Arab questions with a concentration on those regarding the fate of the nation and the consolidation of the Arab stand.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Receives French Foreign Minister

LD161543 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II — may God help him — received this afternoon French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson at the Fes Royal Palace. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Foreign Minister Mr Abdelouahed Belkziz, and the French ambassador in Rabat.

SUDAN

At-Tayyib Receives Note From Kuwaiti Crown Prince

JN161603 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Apr (SUNA) — First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib has received a written message from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, on bilateral relations and the means of bolstering them. Prince Numayr Kazim al-Qurayni, secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Khartoum, delivered the message when the first vice president received his highness today.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba's Eyesight Restored After Operation

NC161230 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Lyons, France, April 16 (AFP) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba has recovered his vision completely following an operation for cataracts last week, Tunisian Ambassador to France Hedi Mabrouk said today.

President Bourguiba had only ten percent vision in each eye before his operation in a Lyons clinic last Thursday. Mr Mabrouk said he could now read the newspapers, recognise people 50 metres (yards) away, and had told aides that he felt as if he had been reborn.

The Tunisian leader is due to leave the hospital tomorrow, and will spend ten days convalescing at the home of the local prefect (French Government representative).

WESTERN SAHARA

Salek-Led Polisario Delegation Ends Visit to India

LD161319 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, 16-4-84 (APS) — A Polisario Front delegation led by Mohamed Ould Salek, Politburo member head of external relations, ended yesterday a four-day visit to India at the invitation of the Congress Party. During its stay the Saharan delegation comprising also Mr Malainine Sadek, ambassador to Iran, held talks with the speaker of the Parliament and representatives of the different groups of the Parliament. It conferred also with Rajiv Gandhi, secretary General of Congress Party, who reaffirmed his party's support for the Saharan just struggle for independence under the leadership of Polisario Front.

Mr Salem Ould Salek (?gave) Rajiv Gandhi a message from the Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi, who is acting chairman of the [word indistinct] was invited to visit the Saharan Republic.

In a statement published at the issue of the visit to [words indistinct] of the Congress Party expressed its wish for the implementation of OAU 19th summit in order to allow the Saharan people to exercise its right to self-determination.

KENYA

U.S. Speaker of House Arrives for 1-Week Visit

EA171229 Nairobi KNA in English 2045 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Nairobi, April 16 — The Speaker of the U.S. House of the Representatives Mr Thomas O'Neill together with a team of 11 U.S. congressmen arrived in Nairobi tonight to start a week-long official visit to Kenya.

They were met at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Elijam Mwangale, the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Fred Mati, Kenya's Ambassador to the U.S.A. Mr Wafula Wabuge, Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs Mr Bethuel Kiplagat, the clerk of the National Assembly Mr Leonard Ngugi, the American ambassador to Kenya and his staff as well as other senior Kenya Government officials.

During their stay in Kenya, they will hold talks with the Kenya Government, tour American-assisted projects, and visit places of tourist attractions.

SOMALIA

Foreign Minister's Delegation Leaves for Saudi Arabia

EA171208 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Somali Foreign Minister Challe 'Abd ar-Rahman Jama Barre, leading a delegation, left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this morning while the delegation led by Challe Dr Ahmad Habib Ahmad, minister of Juba Valley development, returned to the country after ending visits to Kuwait, Belgium, and West Germany.

Challe Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman Jama Barre, in an interview with the SONNA reporter at the airport, Challe Ali Kus, said his visit is in response to an invitation extended to him by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud Al- Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and that he will also convey a message from Somali President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre to Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The Somali foreign minister said while in the Saudi Kingdom, he would meet senior officials and hold talks on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries and peoples of Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

TANZANIA

USSR Zanzibar Consul Congratulates Interim President

EA162012 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The Soviet Consul in Zanzibar, Ndugu Aleksey Laptev, today expressed his country's sorrow to the Tanzanian Government over the death of Ndugu Edward Sokoine last Thursday in a car accident. Ndugu Laptev, who expressed his country's sorrow during talks with the interim president of Zanzibar, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi, at State House, said that the late Sakoine was a wise leader and courageous militant in promoting his nations interests.

Touching on furthering relations, the Soviet consul expressed his country's consistent aim of promoting the fraternal relations between the two countries. He said the USSR supported all efforts which could bring about peace in the world like those of the Tanzanian Government. Ndugu Laptev also congratulated Ndugu Mwinyi on his appointment as interim president of Zanzibar and wished him success in the forthcoming elections.

Replying, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi praised the efforts of the USSR and expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between the two countries will continue to grow.

CAMEROON

'Military Clampdown' in North, Roadblocks Set Up

AB161614 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Yaounde, April 16 (AFP) — A military clampdown is under way in northern Cameroon in the wake of the abortive coup earlier this month, visitors to the area said here.

Numerous roadblocks had been set up on the roads and in the towns of the region, which government officials said at the weekend had been the source of the plot to topple President Paul Biya.

Extensive police operations were also said to be under way in Douala west of here, which is the economic capital and the country's main port. Sources said that arms had been discovered.

Remarks on Saturday by Armed Forces Minister Gilbert Anze Tsoungui and Army Chief General Pierre Semengue, to the effect that the members of the Republican Guard who sparked off the rebellion were all from the Muslim north, backed by northern businessmen and ex-President Ahmadou Ahidjo, were a departure from earlier more prudent statements.

On April 10, two days after the coup was crushed, President Biya, a southern Christian, denied that the coup attempt originated among people of any particular province or religion.

Mr Ahidjo, who resigned as president in November 1982 but tried to cling on to power as ruling party leader until the following August, and was condemned to death last month in his absence for alleged plotting, has denied involvement in the rebellion.

However one Western diplomat noted that the incidents — which resulted in the deaths of 70 people according to official figures but several hundred in the opinion of reliable sources — had greatly harmed Cameroon.

For the first time in years blood has flowed in the streets of a country seen under President Ahidjo as a model of stability, and there are fears here that old regional and ethnic animosity will be revived.

Mr Tsoungui himself acknowledged on Saturday that "not everyone" had welcomed the changes wrought by President Biya since he took power.

Probe Into Rebellion To Be Completed 'This Week'

AB161744 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Yaounde, April 16 (AFP) — Most of the civilians involved in Cameroon's abortive coup of April 6 have been arrested, and a probe into the rebellion will be completed this week, Armed Forces Minister Gilbert Ande Tsoungui told foreign journalists here today. He added that several hundred rebels of the Republican Guard, who were crushed by loyalist forces in the capital after a weekend of fighting, had given themselves up.

Of the civilians arrested, Mr Tsoungui named Issa Abdoum, director-general of the National Rural Development Fund, who was a close associate of ex-President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

Last Saturday Mr Tsoungui accused Mr Ahidjo, who is in exile after being condemned to death in his absence last month for alleged plotting, of being behind the coup attempt. The accusation was denied by Mr Ahidjo.

Last Thursday the government said that 1,053 people had been arrested, but Mr Tsoungui said today that some had been released, in particular soldiers who had been misled by their commanders into believing they were defending legality.

The minister denied reports that foreigners had been among those arrested. There was no evidence as yet of outside involvement, he said.

The probe into the coup attempt, conducted by a joint civilian and military commission, was proceeding normally, Mr Tsoungui said. Those arrested had admitted their involvement.

As soon as the inquiry commission had finished its work, its findings would be submitted to the military tribunal here, which could bring the accused to trial very rapidly, Mr Tsoungui said. He stressed that soldiers from every ethnic group in the country had taken part in the operation to defeat the coup, and the unity of the armed forces had not been [word indistinct].

Meanwhile the ruling Cameroon National Union called on the people to redouble their vigilance, but warned its activists against settling scores. Those responsible for the rebellion were "a minority thirsting for power," it said, repeating the words of President Paul Biya last Tuesday, when he said that no particular ethnic group or religion was to blame. The party branch however urged a major combing operation of "certain zones" in the country.

CHAD

Habre Opens Administrative Prefects Conference

AB162045 Paris AFP in French 1425 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Apr (AFP) — "The new Chadian administration" should encourage national integration, economic and cultural development, and reinforce the political independence of the country, Chadian head of state President Hissein Habre declared Monday in Ndjamena.

These objectives cannot be achieved without the help of a "humanized, efficient, and loyal administration, and the collaboration of a confident population," he said in a speech delivered at the opening of a meeting of Chadian prefects.

President Habre said that territorial administration in Chad is characterized by the destruction of the administrative structure during the last years of the war, in place of which now is an "anarchic patchwork of structures installed here and there to suit the politico-military" factions of the former Transitional National Union Government (GUNT).

The government's policy Mr Habre said, consists of defending Chad against "external and internal threats, reinforcing national unity and concord, and rehabilitating this country's human and material resources." He appealed to the prefects to be "constantly ready to answer to the call of the Chadian nation for national salvation."

The conference of Chadian prefects, which is scheduled to last 5 days, is attended by officials of the country's 14 prefectures except the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET area in northern Chad which is occupied by former President Goukouni Oueddei's troops and his Libyan allies). The purpose of this conference is to take stock of the first year in office of the new prefects appointed by President Habre and also to examine the administrative structures.

According to observers, security problems of the national territory and collaboration between civilian and military authorities will be the main issues discussed at the conference.

Security in the five prefectures of southern Chad had been disturbed, especially by the infiltrations of some GUNT elements.

According to Agriculture Minister Djidjingar Dono Gardoum, the leader of a government mission which spent 6 months in the region in order to restore peace to this cotton-growing area, the mission has been able to restore "calm and legality."

For his part, the Chadian minister of the interior and of security, Tahar Guinassou, declared that he was convinced that very important conclusions toward the reorganization and the adaptation of the territorial administration to our local realities will come out of this conference.

Plane Crashes in Chad Desert; Pilot Killed

NC161836 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Metz, France, April 16 (AFP) — A French Jaguar flying a reconnaissance mission in Chad crashed accidentally in the desert today, killing the pilot, a French Air Force statement released here said. A pilot in a second Jaguar participating in the reconnaissance mission flew over the wreckage several times but was unable to give a cause for the crash, the statement added.

ZAIRE

Kinshasa Previews Mobutu's Visit to France

AB162115 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] MPR founding Chairman and Zairian President Field Marshall Mobutu Sese Seko today begins an official working visit to France. The visit will last 3 days.

The MPR founding chairman and Zairian president will have his first round of talks with French head of state Francois Mitterrand tomorrow, Tuesday. During his working visit, the field marshall will also meet several French political leaders, including Christian Nucci, French minister delegate for cooperation and development; Agriculture Minister Michel Roccart; Defense Minister Charles Hernu; as well as External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. With these officials the MPR founding chairman and president of the Zairian Republic will discuss the various fields of cooperation between France and Zaire. During this official working visit, the MPR founding chairman and president will also visit a scientific research center somewhere in Paris tomorrow following his appearance as a guest at a meeting of the National Council of French Employers, CNPF.

The high rank of the officials with whom the MPR founding chairman is to hold discussions indicates the importance of the problems to be discussed during the visit of the field marshal to France — indeed, he will discuss several areas of cooperation with the various French ministers. Undoubtedly, the climax of the MPR founding chairman's visit to France will be tomorrow when he meets with President Francois Mitterrand. France and Zaire will discuss at the highest level the problems of bilateral cooperation.

Presidents Mobutu and Mitterrand have always condemned the system of apartheid established by the South African authorities. They have also, on several occasions, expressed their attachment to Namibia's accession to independence. Already these are two issues which will once again demonstrate the agreement of views between Kinshasa and Paris. Concerning southern Africa, the MPR founding chairman and president of the Zairian Republic will brief his host on the outcome of the recent discussions he had with President Samora Machel whose country has just signed a nonaggression pact with South Africa.

France and Zaire are both engaged in Chad on the side of the legitimate government of that country; more than 2,000 Zairian soldiers are in Chad at the request of the Ndjamena authorities while Paris has organized the Manta Operation in order to stop the Libyan adventure. The two countries are one in asserting that national reconciliation, the safeguard of national independence and territorial integrity constitute the basis for the permanent solution to the Chadian conflict.

Undoubtedly, bilateral issues will occupy the greater part of the MPR founding chairman and Zairian president's visit to France. Paris and Kinshasa maintain a cooperation in a multitude of areas, especially in the fields of transportation and communications, and agriculture and education. For example, in 1983 French technical assistance amounted to about 130 million French francs. Added to this is military assistance. French military assistance provides for the training of airborne troops and armored units. About 260 French technical advisers are working in Zaire where French investments are estimated at about 240 million French francs. The strong desire of the two partners is to further strengthen their bonds of cooperation in a world where cultural understanding is the most effective way of promoting economic cooperation between countries. Along with this, Zaire, which has made laudable efforts since September 1983 in order to revamp its economy, remains open to aid from its partners among whom France obviously occupies an important place.

BENIN

Guinea's Traore Leaves Cotonou After Short Visit

AB162146 Dakar PANA in French 1611 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cotonou, 16 Apr (ABP-BEN/PANA) — Within the framework of the information tour being made by the new Guinean authorities, a delgation led by Prime Minister Colonel Diara Traore left Cotonou on Monday early in the afternoon after a short 24-hour visit to Benin.

Prior to his departure from Cotonou, Col Diara Traore disclosed that "we have come to brief the Beninese authorities on the reasons behind the 3 April military takeover in Conakry." He further expressed satisfaction over the talks he held with General Mathieu Kerekou, the Beninese head of state.

He was seen off by Romain Vilon Guezo, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly, as well as other members of the National Executive Committee (the government).

GHANA

Cultural Agreement Signed With USSR

AB141410 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Newsreel]

[Text] Ghana and the Soviet Union have signed a cultural and scientific agreement under which experts and trainees of various fields are to be exchanged. The agreement is a step further by Ghana to maintain cordial relations with friendly countries irrespective of political ideologies. Augustina Attick reports:

The agreement, which is for the period 1984-85, is a renewal of similar ones signed in 1970 and 1982. Under it, the Soviet Union will send to Ghana an exhibition of painted drawings this year and a group of 20 Soviet artists for a 14-day tour. The two countries will exchange two-member delegations of library workers each for a 14-day stay for mutual familiarization in the operations of libraries in each country. Furthermore, the Union of Composers of the Soviet Union and the National Music Association of Ghana will also exchange a two-member delegation for a similar purpose.

With regard to science and education, there will be cooperation between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and its African institute on the one hand, and the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, on the other. In this connection, there will also be an exchange program. The Soviet Union will further grant Ghana 60 scholarships, 50 of them being for full-time course study, research, and advanced training in accordance with educational plans and programs. There will also be a regular exchange of textbooks, methodical and pedagogical literature.

In the field of radio, television, and cinema, the Soviet Union will also help by sending an expert every year to deliver lectures on the art of cinema at the National Film and Television Institute, Nafti. The secretary for culture and tourism noted that since independence, the Soviet Union has aided Ghana in training personnel in many fields and initiated several projects which, though abandoned after the 1966 coup, are now being revived by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] government. Even before the signing of such agreements, he said, the Soviet Union had cooperated with Ghana in several fields and hoped that the agreement would further concretize the existing cordial relations between the two countries.

Mr Asiedu Yirenkyi announced that the program would cover not only the cultural field but also science and education, radio, television, cinema, and sports.

The Soviet ambassador, Mr Semenov, who signed on behalf of his country, expressed his country's solidarity with the government and people of Ghana who are working hard to reconstruct their economy. He said his country is willing to cooperate with Ghana in several fields and explained that the new agreement is an integral part of this cooperation. He recalled that in an earlier meeting with the chairman of the PNDC, he had expressed the need for the two countries to know each other well and hoped this agreement would further foster this desire. He noted that relations between Ghana and the Soviet Union have received a new impetus with the coming into power of the PNDC Government and prayed that the relations would develop further for the mutual benefit of the two nations.

Nigeria To Supply Crude Oil Shipments

AB162046 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] A ship carrying crude oil docked at Tema today to discharge 40,000 metric tons of crude oil for Ghana. The oil is worth $10 million. A ship carrying a similar consignment is expected in Ghana soon.

Announcing this in an interview with the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, GBC, today, the secretary for fuel and power, Mr Appiah Korang, said arrangements with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation have been completed, and it is hoped that the fuel situation will soon be normalized. Under the new agreement, Ghana will be supplied fuel under irrevocably confirmed letters of credit from a first class bank in Europe. That is, any crude oil being lifted from Nigeria must be guaranteed by a European bank. The supply of fuel will, therefore, depend on how often Ghana honors her part of the agreement.

The fuel and power secretary, however, assured the public that his ministry, in conjuction with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Bank of Ghana, will work hard to maintain the security required so as to insure regular supply of fuel and to minimize the queues at filling stations. Mr Appiah Korang said the vote for fuel that has been provided for in the 1984 budget is $450 million which is less than what the country requires. This means that fuel consumption must be curtailed. He disclosed that at the moment, Ghana depends solely on

Nigeria for her oil supply because Nigeria's proximity gave Ghana a straight advantage. However, in times of difficulties, she can quickly rely on other options.

Ghana Contemplates Inviting 5,000 Cuban Troops

AB161551 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Accra, April 16 (AFP) — Two factions in Ghana's ruling military government are at odds over whether to invite 5,000 Cuban troops into the country, political sources said here today. The head of state, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, has yet to make up his mind which faction to back, the sources said, but Western and African diplomats in Accra expected the Cubans to come soon. The main backer of a Cuban presence was said to be Special Presidential Adviser Kodjo Tsikata, who wants close ties with Eastern Bloc countries. He is supported by some members of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) but opposed by a "moderate" faction. Diplomats said that 50 Cuban troops, sent from Ethiopia, arrived in Ghana last month to strengthen the personal bodyguard of Flt-Lt Rawlings, who has been the target of a number of coup attempts since he seized power at the end of 1981.

If the 5,000 Cubans came, it was thought they would be stationed at Tamale, the main northern town 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Accra, or at Bolgatanga, 150 kilometers (100 miles) further north. Some diplomats said the Cubans could be based in both towns. Tamale has the advantage of facilities for heavy transport aircraft, while Bolgatanga is only 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border with Upper Volta whose government has close links with the PNDC. At the end of March Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca visited both countries, and diplomats said he discussed the basing of Cuban troops in Ghana with both Flt-Lt Rawlings and Upper Voltan leader Captain Thomas Sankara in a secret meeting in Ouagadougou, the Upper Voltan capital, on March 25. In February Captain Sankara, whose similar style of regime to that in Accra took over last August, said during a visit by the Ghanaian leader to Upper Volta that Flt-Lt Rawlings had secretly backed his own coup. Captain Sankara was for two years commander of the parachute training school at Po in southern Upper Volta, only 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Bolgatanga.

GUINEA

Guinea's Traore Brings Diouf Message From Conte

AB161255 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Colonel Diara Traore left yesterday for Conakry after a visit of a few hours to Dakar. The Guinean prime minister brought President Abdou Diouf a personal message from Guinean President Lansana Conte. This is the statement Diara Traore made to us shortly before his departure:

[Begin Diara recording] As we prepare to leave the soil of our sister Republic of Senegal, may I, on behalf of my delegation, convey my sincere thanks to the Senegalese people, the Senegalese Government, and to our brother President Abdou Diouf. We are leaving very confident about future relations between Guinea and Senegal. Our talks took place in a family atmosphere of detente, in which President Abdou Diouf assured us of the support of the government and people of Senegal in our great undertaking. I therefore thank all the officials that were of service to our delegation. I thank the brotherly Senegalese people and President Abdou Diouf for making our stay pleasant. We are leaving with a feeling of having met with real success on this mission. Thank you. [end Diara recording]

During his visit, the Guinean prime minister met with the Guinean community, which demonstrated its full support and desire to return home to serve and place itself at the disposal of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN]. Diara Traore also gave a press conference. The number two man in Guinea first answered a question about the tour which has taken him to several African countries:

[Begin recording] [Diara] Wherever my delegation went, it was welcomed with enthusiasm and much warmth by our friends of the host countries and from our compatriots resident in these countries. We also had the firm support of all the governments who recognized the validity of this change. We are leaving Senegal with a feeling of reassurance following the warm and brotherly talks we had with Brother Abdou Diouf. We received similar reassurances from the other African countries that we visited. We had very intimate talks with the various heads of state who assured us individually of their support and solidarity.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, recently President Conte made an appeal to Guineans outside the country. It is known that the education Guineans receive in Guinea is not up to standards. Don't you think this is likely to create a discrepency in the competence of the national cadres and those returning from abroad?

[Diara] I do not see any discrepency in the levels of competence. Each person in his own way can contribute his quota according to his technical knowledge. We made an appeal to all the sons and daughters of Guinea abroad to encourage them to return home because they left with differing opinions; however, now that we agree, we ask them to come back to serve their families, brothers, sisters, and the people who need them to help the CMRN correct and revamp the situation in all areas. Even if they choose to remain outside, they can bring their contributions anonymously. We all hope for Guinea's well-being. There will be no descrepency in the levels of competence between those coming from outside and those at home.

[Question] Do you hope for a rapid return of all the refugees? Might this not give rise to a problem of integration?

[Diara] We hope for a rapid return, and this poses no problem since each of them left his family at home when he left. It is neither a problem of resettlement nor of specialization. When we call on a doctor to come and serve Guinea, we are not assigning him a ministerial post. We are calling on him to perform his own profession, which he must do to help redress the situation. We did not say that all the sons of Guinea who return will be assigned a position. We are especially interested in those with specialties and technical know-how. But everyone is free to return and contibute. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

National Assembly To Elect Parliamentarians

AB131729 Paris AFP in French 0821 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Bissau, 13 Apr (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau's People's National Assembly will meet 6-9 May according to a statement by the Political Bureau of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde which met on Thursday in Bissau under the chairmanship of the head of state, General Joao Bernado Vieira.

The statement pointed out that regional councillors elected last 31 March will meet on 18 April in order to elect, in their turn, the 150 parliamentarians of the People's National Assembly. The first tasks of the National Assembly will be the election of a state council and its chairman and the approval of the draft constitution prepared by the PAIGC. The new constitution will replace the one that was suspended during the military coup of 14 November 1980 which overthrew President Luiz Cabral and brought Gen Vieira to power. No election has been held since the coup. The examination — and adoption — of the draft constitution by the National Assembly will be preceded by open discussions by various structures at the grassroots and PAIGC cadres during the second week of April.

IVORY COAST

Burundi Envoy Meets President, Grants Interview

AB162145 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The president of the republic early this afternoon received an envoy from President Bagaza of Burundi, Laurent Nzeyimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. At the end of the audience, the special envoy spoke to the press:

[Begin recording] [Nzeyimana] I delivered a personal message from President Bagaza to His Excellency President Houphouet-Boigny. We also exchanged views on issues of common interest and African issues.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, your country is hosting the next French-African summit. Could you tell us how far you have gone with the preparations?

[Nzeyimana] Obviously, Burundi has began the preparations materially as well as politically. This is one of the reasons why I am here in the Ivory Coast. I believe that as part of the preparations, it is very important for African leaders to consult each other. It is important therefore for the host country to make it possible for these leaders to exchange views on issues of common interest. As I said, we have begun the preparations and we strongly hope this conference will be successful. [end recording]

NIGER

Kountche Speaks on 10th Anniversary of Coup

AB161335 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Apr 84

[President Seyni Kountche's address to the nation on the 10th anniversary of the military takeover on 14 April in Niamey — recorded]

[Summary] "Sons and daughters of Niger, my dear compatriots: It is 10 years today that the national Armed Forces have been presiding over the destiny of the Republic of Niger. By assuming power, they assigned themselves the patriotic duty of restoring to our people their right to live. Since then, you have witnessed all our actions; you have also witnessed the intransigence with which we have safeguarded the historic virtues of our people." You have also discovered our only ambition, which is to build a nation that transcends time and space to remain constant. On this occasion, I wish to pay a solemn tribute to all officers, noncommissioned officers, gendarmes, corporals, and soldiers who successfully foiled all subversive attempts, helped to safeguard the cohesion of the Armed Forces, and worked selflessly to make the past 10 years a fruitful and decisive period — fruitful and decisive because they enabled us to see the end of the long and deadly famine which, on the eve of 13 April 1974, was still breaking up villages and families, decimating people and animals, and plunging a proud people into a lamentable state of despair and beggary.

The purchasing power of our workers has considerably increased, the health of our populations has greatly improved, education and culture have been rehabiltated, our communication and telecommunication infrastructures have been developed, and our economy has been reactivated in many sectors.

"My dear fellow countrymen and women, it is obvious that all these results — which each of you can rightly appreciate — have been possible only thanks to our joint efforts. Each of you — farmer, stockbreeder, worker, civil servant, contractor, trader, or socioprofessional organization member — has demonstrated remarkable commitment and zeal. I address to all of you my sincere compliments."

During the decade that just ended, the state budget increased in a manner unprecedented in our country's history. "The state budget, which was only 14,267,610,000 francs in 1974, increased to 80,244,185,000 francs in 1984." We must also recall that the guaranteed minimum wage, which was 5,200 francs in 1974, is now 18,898 francs. This represents a 300 percent increase.

Our foreign policy is based on the principles we enunciated in 1974. These principles, dictated by our strong desire to assert our people's personality and dignity, are characterized by a search for ways and means of establishing relations of friendship and solidarity as well as active cooperation with all countries in the world.

We have decided to grant clemency to some people detained following the events of (?13 June) 1976. Having said this, we must emphasize that we remain more than ever vigilant and determined to combat subversive elements and all inclinations toward regionalism. "Of course, we respect democracy and are prepared to protect public liberties; however, there exists a field in which we will never effect a compromise — that of the preservation of peace and security. Anyone who tries to endanger the nation's vital interests will always find us barring his way. The national Army, which is deeply aware of its patriotic duties and responsibilities to the nation, will — despite all opposition — make national unity a living reality to ensure the harmonious development of our people in order, justice, and peace."

Traore-Led Delegation Arrives for Visit

AB162048 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Excerpt] After Cotonou, the delegation of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN] led by Colonel Diara Traore, prime minister and head of government, was met today at the Niamey airport by the prime minister, Hamid Algabit, who was accompanied by members of the Niger Government. Col Diara Traore and his delegation were received at 1800 by the Niger head of state, General Seyni Kountche.

NIGERIA

GUARDIAN Wants Political Detainees Tried Publicly

AB161040 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The *GUARDIAN* stresses the need for political detainees to be publicly tried. It believes that if the government wants the extradition of other political office holders sojourning abroad, they will have to convince the authorities in these countries about the fairness of the impending trials. The *GUARDIAN* strongly supports all efforts aimed at bringing everyone to book, but it advocates a manner where justice is seen to take its due course.

Gambari Receives PLO Ambassador-Designate

AB161810 Lagos NAN in English 1511 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Lagos, April 16 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government will continue to support the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, said in Lagos on Friday.

Receiving the PLO ambassador-designate to Nigeria, Dr (Salim Bakr Dayib), the minister said that the federal government would support measures aimed at securing a homeland for the Palestinians.

A special envoy of the PLO, Mr (Salim al-Haffi), who formally presented the ambassador-designate, had expressed the organisation's gratitude for Nigeria's support.

Commentator Views Biya-Ahidjo Rivalry, Coup

AB151020 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Dele Kuku commentary]

[Text] It was in light of the popular parlance that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely that the voluntary relinquishing of power by former President Ahmadou Ahidjo was applauded by progressive-minded people in Africa and the international community. This is because the major criticism against African leaders has been their tendency to stay in power perpetually and in most cases against the genuine desire of their people for a change in the political leadership. Hence, it was seen as a new dawn in the political culture of Africa when former President Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal and Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon stepped down as leaders of their country without any threat from the barrel of the gun which is the usual experience in this part of world.

Shortly after the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo, he was replaced by the man of his own choice, Mr Paul Biya, the erstwhile prime minister. This particularly peaceful transition was received with applause in most African countries and beyond. But as it later turned out, things soon got bad between Mr Ahidjo and Mr Biya. As a result of the sour relationship between the two, President Biya immediately swung into action to remove all the shadows of Mr Ahidjo from his administration. He systematically went about achieving this by removing all suspected Ahidjo loyalists from his government and insisting on absolute loyalty to the state. This mutual distrust between both leaders gradually led to the trial in absentia of former President Ahidjo for allegedly trying to overthrow the government and his consequent condemnation to death.

Mr Ahidjo, who has been in Paris, was quick to appeal to the ethnic sentiments of Cameroonians apparently to revolt against the legitimate government of President Paul Biya. There is, therefore, no doubt that last week's attempted coup in Cameroon can be attributed to the subterranean maneuvers of supporters of former President Ahmadou Ahidjo in a bid to show the world that their protege is still very influential in the country, notwithstanding the bloodbath that would be and was in fact unleashed on the people in the past few days.

Much as one will blame Ahidjo's supporters for trying to make Biya succumb to their whims and caprices, a hurried trial and subsequent condemnation of Ahidjo to death by a court whose impartiality was open to question is surely not in good faith. As both leaders are aware that a war between them will affect the common masses, they should spare the ordinary Cameroonian the pains of a violent and unstable society, especially in these times of global economic recession. Both leaders must accept the fact the they are not Cameroon and that Cameroon will surely survive forever, but they will not live forever. Mr Ahidjo in particular should note that since he has been acknowledged for his noble contribution to the independence and development of Cameroon and the fact that he relinquished power voluntarily, he should allow the sleeping dog to lie. He should allow Cameroonians to make their own contributions to the development of the country. The earlier he allows his country to continue to develop along the lines he had chartered for it without waking ethnic feelings, the better for his name and the Cameroonians which he loved so much. Fortunately, President Biya himself has just assured his countrymen that last Friday's uprising cut across tribal and ethnic lines.

SENEGAL

National Assembly Elects New President

AB130641 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The National Assembly yesterday elected its new president, Daouda Sow, who was the president of the parliamentary group of the Socialist Party. He replaces Habib Thiam who has resigned.

French Adviser, Guinea's Traore Make Visit

LD151403 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Guinea still wishes to host the next OAU summit in Conakry, but in November rather than in May, if possible, so as to be able to better prepare for the summit. This is what the Guinean prime minister said to French presidential adviser Guy Penne. They are both on a visit in Dakar. Moreover, the Guinean prime minister took the opportunity to make an urgent appeal for French cooperation in the field of education. The fact that Colonel Traore is concluding his information tour of several African countries in Senegal is quite significant; Senegal is a large state, close to African and French sensitivities. Pierre Barnes reports from Dakar:

In ending his West African minitour in the former capital of French West Africa — thus turning it into a special guest star — the new Guinean number two already underlines his country's will to further reintegrate into the French-speaking family to which he belonged in the past and within which Sekou Toure himself had undertaken to return. His meeting in Dakar with the personal advisor of the French presidency for African affairs, Mr Guy Penne, who delayed his return to Paris for a few hours for this especially, further stressed this willingness. It is more and more hoped unofficially that Guinea will reintegrate, like Mali, into the West African Monetary Union, that is, the franc area.

Col Traore took advantage of his stay in Dakar to reaffirm his country's wish to see, despite recent events, the OAU decision maintained to hold its next summit in Conakry. Above all, he revealed important information on this subject which makes this wish more acceptable: He has asked for 6 months' postponment of this summit, that is to November. In the meantime, Conakry will have been able to finish preparing for guests' accommodations, which would not have been the case in May. Also, the new Guinean power will have had time to become better known and, he must think, better appreciated.

TOGO

Communique on Cooperation With Upper Volta

AB151000 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 15 Ap 84

[Excerpt] The first meeting of the joint cooperation commission between Togo and Upper Volta ended yesterday afternoon after 3 days of deliberations at the Rally of the Togolese People's House in Lome. These 3 days enabled experts of the two delegations to dwell on problems related to good neighborliness between our two peoples. As stressed by Mr Akakpo Anhianyo, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs who led the Togolese delegation, the outcome of these 3 days of deliberations demonstrates the two countries' desire to live in perfect harmony and especially to better understand one another.

On his part, the Upper Voltan minister of foreign affairs, Mr Hama Arba Diallo, leader of the Upper Voltan delegation, expressed happiness over the Togolese authorities' cooperation which helped in obtaining such encouraging results for the future of our two peoples. The Upper Voltan minister said agreements on agriculture, health, and transport show the willingness of the two countries to march hand in hand for the well-being and development of the two people.

In fact, the final communique issued at the end of the 3-day meeting states that during the deliberations which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two delegations examined the various points on the agenda of this first session. These points concern transportation, communications, trade, economic, financial, and technical affairs, as well as cultural and scientific exchanges.

Concerning transportation and trade, the two delegations expressed happiness about progress made so far and undertook to strengthen their cooperation through appropriate measures taken and implemented in a spirit of mutual understanding. On economic and financial matters, the two delegations noted the need to harmonize their development policies in the field of agriculture, industry, and energy in accordance with the spirit of the ECOWAS and Lagos Plan of Action. They undertook to promote, in conjunction with other states of the subregion, viable integrated projects, especially in the communication and mineral development infrastructure. On cultural, social, and scientific cooperation, the two delegations reaffirmed their willingness to intensify, as before, their inter-university exchanges and to continue their exchange programs in cultural and sporting fields for a better understanding of the brotherly people who are united by age-long bonds of friendship. They also decided to improve cooperation in the field of health.

Eyadema Receives FLN, Other Delegations

AB130635 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpts] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the head of state, received three delegations and the Upper Voltan foreign minister, Arba Diallo, this morning at the presidential palace. The first delegation was that of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] comprising six members and led by Abderrazak Bouhara, permanent secretary of the FLN Central Committee. The FLN members arrived in our country a week ago. According to the leader of the delegation, the talks with the head of state were on African problems.

[Begin Bouhara recording] The FLN delegation had the honor of meeting President Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT]. At this meeting the Togolese head of state made a very realistic and personal analysis of the situation in Africa. Obviously, current African problems facing the OAU were at the center of the discussions and the realistic analysis made by President Eyadema. This is proof of his desire to contribute Togo's solutions to problems on our continent and it is also proof of his clear-sightedness and his steadfastness in examining these problems.

On this occasion, I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to express all our thanks to President Eyadema and his wife, to all the leaders and militants of the RPT for the warm welcome they gave us in this country and I would also like to praise the great achievements of the party and people of Togo. [end recording]

The second delegation to be received by the head of state was the new Executive Committee of the National Union of Togolese Women, led by its President Ayele Yuvikpor. The third delegation was that of the Guinean Government led by Prime Minister Diara Traore.

UPPER VOLTA

New Programs Announced for National Radio

AB130623 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] On 21 April 1984 new programs of the national radio will be launched. There will be changes, especially in the evening programs. The evening news bulletin will be broadcast at 1900 GMT instead of 2000 GMT and the 2230 GMT broadcast will take place at 2200 GMT. Every evening, as of 2000 GMT, new programs will be offered to you. There will be conferences, debates, socioeconomic programs, programs on the activities of revolutionary defense councils, life in the various services, on the revolutionary times, and so on. Because of these new programs, there will be changes in the afternoon programs. Programs in local ethnic languages will begin at 1500 GMT instead of 1600. In future newscasts the director of the broadcasting corporation will give further details on the main aspects of these new programs.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Sao Tome Minister

MB161638 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda, 16 Apr (ANGOP) — Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received in audience in Futungo de Balas on Saturday Carlos Kiny, the Sao Tome and Principe minister of cooperation. Carlos Kiny handed him a personal message from Manuel Pinto da Costa, chairman of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe and president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Dos Santos Sends Message to Seychelles' Rene

MB161537 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda, 16 April, (ANGOP) — Eusebio Sebastiao Junior, the Angolan ambassador to Tanzania, was received in audience in Victoria today by Albert Rene, the Seychelles president to whom he delivered a personal message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. On this occasion, the Angolan diplomat explained to President Rene the Angolan Government's position on the situation on southern Africa, namely on Namibia, which is still illegally occupied by racist South Africa. Eusebio Sebastiao Junior also informed President Rene about the Angolan people's struggle against the UNITA puppets.

Jorge Denounces 'Warlike' Capitalist Countries

MB161718 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda 16 Apr (ANGOP) — The delegates to the first congress of the Angolan National Workers Union [UNTA] unanimously approved the report of the outgoing Central Council during their eighth session on Saturday. The report is a 90-page document which reflects in detail the conditions of the Angolan workers before and after independence.

The delegates to the UNTA Congress were also addressed on Saturday evening by Paulo Peixeira Jorge, Angolan foreign minister, who essentially dealt with the issues of "peace and disarmament." Stressing first the main aspects which guide the foreign policy of the People's Republic of Angola, based mainly on peaceful coexistence among states, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, mutually beneficial relations among nations, and adherence to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, the United Nations, the OAU, and other regional organizations, the Angolan foreign minister underlined the need for all countries to make efforts to secure complete and total disarmament.

Although the socialist and progressive countries of all continents are redoubling their efforts to avert the conflagration of a nuclear war, certain capitalist countries, Paulo Jorge said, have openly manifested their warlike character. At present, he continued, more than $800 billion are used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction, employing thousands of people. This amount, Paulo Jorge added, could have been used more profitably if it had been used to promote development of developing countries.

Official Talks With PAICV Delegation Begin

MB132011 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda, 13 Apr (ANGOP) — Official talks between theMPLA-Labor Party and the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde [PAICV] started yesterday in Luanda at the headquarters of the MPLA-Labor Party. In these talks, the Angolan delegation is led by Roberto de Almeida, the secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for economic and social affairs, and on the Cape Verde side by Joaquim Pedro Silva, the PAICV secretary for the foreign affairs. The Cape Verde delegation, which has been in Luanda since yesterday on a 4-day visit, also includes Jorge Lopes, the head of the Department of External Affairs of the PAICV National Council.

LESOTHO

Assembly Asked To Act Against Alliance Official

MB161336 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The Lesotho National Assembly authorities have been asked to consider taking serious measures against Mr (Mpele Lelimo), member of Parliament, who is a member of the Executive of the newly formed Democratic Alliance Party. According to reports, the Democratic Alliance was formed in Pretoria under the direction of the South African Government. In a powerful address to the National Assembly in Maseru today, Mr Peete Peete, the minister of agriculture and marketing, described Mr (Lelimo) as a paid agent of a foreign contry. He said Mr Lelimo draws two salaries, one from South Africa, and the other as a member of the Lesotho parliament.

Mr Peete added that the nation is unhappy about Mr (Lelimo's) continued presence in parliament after what has come to light about his association with the Alliance. Mr (Lelimo), who was present in the assembly, declined to comment until a direct charge had been laid against him. Meanwhile, the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr J.T. Kolane, said he would make a ruling on the matter soon. Mr (Lelimo) has been a member of the Lesotho Interim National Assembly since its establishment 11 years ago.

Drought Aid Received From PRC Red Cross

MB161324 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Lesotho is to receive a grant of $10,000 from the Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of China as drought relief aid. This was disclosed today by the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr Li Zhaoxing, when he paid a courtesy call on the Right Honorable Prime

Minister Dr Leabua Jonathan today. The donation follows a recent appeal made in parliament by the prime minister to friendly governments and organizations.

MADAGASCAR

Cyclone Kamisy Leaves 42,120 People Homeless

MB140950 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French
0430 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Summary] "The damage caused by the intense Cyclone Kamisy has finally been assessed. More than 42,120 people have been rendered homeless in Mahajanga. In general, since the cyclone the weather has been very good. It is only regrettable that there has been such destruction. The road from Mahajanga to Amborovy Airport and the airport itself are now usable." Air Madagascar aircraft will now start sending relief assistance to Mahajanga. "The town of (Movoya) has also been hit by Cyclone Kamisy and 80 percent destroyed. Public buildings and schools have been seriously damaged." "Heavy rains have fallen in Toamasina, where rising waters have forced 70 percent of the population to to higher ground." France has assured Madagascar that "it will act within its means to help the Malagasy people." This is stated in a message from French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson to Malagasy Prime Minister Desire Rakotoarijaona and Malagasy Foreign Minister Jean Bemananjara.

MALAWI

Banda Says Party Meetings Permitted During Week

MB161654 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has directed that as from today, all party public meetings could now be held both during the week and weekends. Announcing this today, a spokeman of Malawi Congress Party National Headquarters in Lilongue said the directive had been made because work carried out in the gardens during the rainy season was now almost over. He said, therefore, normal party activities could resume on week days. The spokesman said that all party leaders are requested to take note of his excellency's directive and ensure that party public meetings are now also conducted within the week days.

Gabon Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Blantyre

MB161702 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The deputy minister of Gabon, Mr Emile Kassa-Mapsi, arrived in the country this afternoon for a 2-day official visit. Mr Kassa-Mapsi told newsmen on arrival in Blantyre that he has come to Malawi to deliver a message from President Omar Bongo of Gabon to his excellency the life president. He did not disclose the contents of the message. During his stay in the country, Mr Kassa-Mapsi will also hold talks with government officials on a number of bilateral and international issues.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Sends Birthday Greetings to Kim Il-song

MB140622 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Marshal Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the people's Republic of Mozambique, has once again reaffirmed the solidarity of the Mozambican people with the Korean people in the struggle for the reunification of their fatherland. This has been expressed in a message of congratulations that the supreme leader of the Mozambican revolution addressed to Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and president of the DPRK, on the occasion of his 72d birthday. The message from President Samora Machel to his Korean counterpart says: We are proud of you, Comrade Kim Il-song, a consistent revolutionary who has dedicated his entire life to the struggle for the gain and strengthening of national independence and the elimination of exploitation of man by man. We have in you, the presidential message adds, a sincere friend of the Mozambican people and a loyal comrade in arms in this difficult battle against our class enemy — imperialism.

DPRK Envoy Discusses Tripartite Talks on Korea

MB141250 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] On the occasion of the 72d birthday of President Kim Il-song of Korea on 15 April, that country's ambassador to Mozambique gave a press conference for the national news media in Maputo this morning. In his statement, the DPRK ambassador to our country underlined the leading role of Kim Il-song, who established a democratic and popular system in North Korea through the mobilization and organization of the popular masses in the implementation of tasks for the transition to socialism. Kim Il-song has demonstrated his partiotic and militant spirit in the defense of the fatherland and territorial integrity, the Korean ambassador in Maputo pointed out.

On conflicts in Korea, the DPRK ambassador in Maputo said that there existed new proposals for a tripartite dialogue involving North Korea, the United States, and South Korea to discuss the signing of an agreement with the United States for the withdrawal of its forces from the southern part of that Korean territory. The talks will conclude with the signing of a nonaggression accord between South and North Korea.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] The new proposal is to hold a tripartite dialogue between our republic, the United States, and South Korea. During these talks, we want the United States to sign an accord between our republic and the United States. We also want to discuss with the United States the total and immediate withdrawal of its troops from South Korea. Likewise, during these talks we want to discuss with South Korean authorities ways of reducing tension between North and South Korea and the adoption of the nonaggression declaration betweeen North and South Korea. [end recording]

The Korean diplomat underlined the ties of friendshp and cooperation binding the peoples of Mozambique and Korea, which date back to the time of the struggle for the national liberation led by Frelimo. It is worth noting that a number of political and cultural activities to mark the 72d birthday of Kim Il-song are being carried out by the Korean Embassy in Maputo. On 9 April, for example, a function was held which was attended by officials from our country and members of the diplomatic corps. Korean movies are presently being shown in all the cinema halls to mark the occasion.

Armed Forces Free 640 in Sofala Province

MB151246 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] During the period from June of last year to April of this year, the Mozambique Armed Forces freed about 640 people who had been kidnapped by the armed bandits in Caia District, Sofala Province. According to information received from Sofala, the freeing of these citizens resulted from military operations mounted in Caia District according to the decisions of the fourth congress, which determined that the complete elimination of the armed bandits and the fight against hunger was a priority task. Also in Caia District, a political and military training course is under way for members of the people's militia and employees in a number of enterprises and production units.

FPLM Reports Gains Against 'Armed Bandits'

MB170825 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0605 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The FPLM military offensive against armed banditry is continuing with greater impetus in various parts of the country. In Manica Province five armed bandit groups were destroyed during operations carried out by FPLM in (Buembue) and (Chualafurudzi). Also in Manica, 11 bandits were killed in a clash with our forces in the Mapendere region, and another 9 gave themselves and their weapons up to our forces in the (Chipudzi) region. In Zambezia Province, six armed bandits gave themselves up to our forces in the Mugeba region on 8 April, while our forces stationed in Mocuba attacked, captured, and destroyed yet another armed bandit base. In Tete our forces killed 12 armed bandits in a clash in the region of Moze heights, capturing war materiel and rucksacks.

NAMIBIA

Further on Deaths of American Diplomats

SWAPO Denies Responsibility

MB161509 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1449 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 16, SAPA — SWAPO has denied responsibility for the bomb blast in northern SWA/Namibia in which two United States diplomats were killed yesterday, saying instead that South Africa was to blame for the incident. "SWAPO does not fight people who are not our enemies," an official SWAPO spokesman in Lusaka told SAPA in Windhoek today. "We have warned the United States that such incidents would take place in which innocent people will be killed. We are not involved in the bombing." He said SWAPO was looking forward to the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435, concerning SWA/Namibian independence. The incident was "a calculated move" by South Africa to delay the pulling out of its Armed Forces from southern Angola. The SWAPO spokesman said a statement by the administrator-general of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, attributing the bomb blast to SWAPO had been "unsubstantiated."

Monitoring Commission To Continue

MB161937 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, says the joint South African-Angolan monitoring commission will carry on with its task despite the deaths of two American diplomats in an explosion at Oshakati. The diplomats were on their way to visit the commission, which is monitoring the disengagement of forces in southern Angola. In an interview with Radio South-West Africa, Dr van Niekerk welcomed assurances by the United States that it would continue its efforts to bring about peace in South Africa. Dr van Niekerk said it was a known fact that SWAPO had on a previous occasion tried to sabotage the filling station where the explosion occurred. He expressed the hope that the world would now recognize SWAPO for what he called the barbaric and senseless organization it was.

Our Washington representative reports that the American Government has ordered an investigation into the circumstances of the explosion. He also says that a spokesman for the State Department has denied that either of the two diplomats was in any way invoved with the Central Intelligence Agency. According to the spokesman, there were no indications at this stage to believe that SWAPO had aimed their attack at the Americans. Our correspondent says it is not known at this stage whether a special team of investigators would be sent to South-West Africa or whether the American Embassy in Pretoria will conduct the investigation.

Voice on Namibia Reports Attack

EA162025 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English
1900 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Reports from Windhoek say two U.S. so-called diplomats were killed yesterday in a powerful bomb blast at a service station near Oshakati in northern Namibia. The two Americans had been travelling to Oshakati for what was said to be discussion with members of the joint commission set up by racist South Africa and Angola to monitor the dissengagement of Pretoria's troops from southern Angola. The two men were officially named as Dennis Keogh, head of the so-called liaison bureau opened in Windhoek in February, and Lieutenant Colonel Ken Crabtree. In the past, SWAPO [words indistinct] officials have made it clear that SWAPO will not be responsible for the safety of racist South Africa collaborators in colonizing Namibia. As Namibia is still under apartheid colonialism, the oppressed people of Namibia should not recognize any foreigner labeled as a diplomat.

UN Observer Denies Responsibility

MB170603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] SWAPO's official observer at the United Nations, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, has denied that his organization was responsible for the bomb blast at Oshakati. He said it was not SWAPO's policy to attack foreigners or diplomats.

Limpet Mine Suspected

MB170901 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 17 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[by Tony Weaver, *MAIL* Africa Bureau]

[Excerpt] Oshakati — The bureaucratic delay involved in getting a cash slip for diesel cost two senior United States diplomats their lives here on Sunday afternoon. A suspected TM 45 Limpet mine exploded at 4:10 pm on Sunday, a metre away from the Toyota Landcruiser in which Mr Dennis Keogh and Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Crabtree were waiting for pump attendant Mr Paulus Rafael to fill out their cash slip. And from interviews conducted by the African Bureau on the scene yesterday, it appears the blast was a random act of terror, not aimed specifically at the Americans, though possibly aimed at another target in a similar vehicle, sources here said yesterday.

DTA Appeals to SWAPO

MB171040 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1030 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 17, SAPA — The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance today appealed to SWAPO to denounce violence and join other SWA/Namibian parties in peaceful negotiations, a statement released in Windhoek said. The statement follows the death of two U.S. diplomats and a SWA/Namibian citizen in a bomb blast in Oshakati on Sunday. The DTA, which is a member party of the privately- initiated multi-party conference on the future of the territory, said the continuation of violence against the background of the present peace initiatives in southern Africa was unjustifiable. "The DTA reaffirms its disapproval of violence as a means to political objectives," the statement said.

Possible Bomb Fragments Examined

MB171157 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] A police spokesman in Windhoek has said that possible bomb fragments have been sent to South Africa for expert examination. The spokesman said the examination should reveal the type of explosive used, as well as its triggering mechanism.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bodies of Diplomats Returned, Nickel Comments

MB161448 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The bodies of the two American diplomats killed in a bomb explosion at Oshakati in South-West Africa yesterday arrived at Waterkloof Air Base outside Pretoria this afternoon. The bodies of Mr Dennis Keogh and Lieutenant Colonel Ken Crabtree are to be flown to the United States on a Pan-American Airways flight tomorrow night. Our Pretoria news staff reports that a special memorial service for the diplomats will be held at the St Auban's Cathedral in Pretoria at 1300 tomorrow. An Ovambo civilian, Mr Thomas Najambonde, was also killed in the blast and so far the death of an Ovambo petrol pump attendant has not yet been confirmed. Radio South-West Africa reports that a special police squad left the city for Oshakati this afternoon to help local police and defense force personnel with their investigation.

The American ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel, today described the deaths of the two diplomatic as tragic, adding that he hoped their deaths would result in a redoubling of efforts to end the 20-year-old conflict in the territory. He said the two diplomats had perished while on a mission to try to bring about peace in southern Africa. He said that one could only hope that the incident would help to focus attention on the terrible suffering of all the peoples of southern Africa who have fallen victim to the vicious cycle of violence and terror which has plagued the region for so long.

Newspapers Comment on Namibian Bombing

MB170724 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] South African newspapers have expressed outrage at Sunday's bomb blast in northern Namibia in which three people, including two U.S. diplomats, were killed. The Johannesburg morning newspaper *THE CITIZEN* says an even greater sense of outrage should be felt because two of the victims were American. It also described the blast as a senseless attack by SWAPO. The *CAPE TIMES* says the bomb blast could either have been what it calls an indiscriminate atrocity or it could have been deliberately aimed at the United States. The Afrikaans newspaper *BEELD* says the attack shows a new dimension has been introduced in the war in Namibia, that of attacking foreign diplomats.

SWAPO Role Scored

MB170658 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Station commentary: "SWAPO Draws the Battlelines"]

[Text] SWAPO, now being hunted down not only in southwest Africa but in southern Angola, where until recently it was operating fairly freely, has reacted with a terrorist bombing that was clearly born of desperation. The Sunday afternoon killing of two officials of America's Windhoek-based liaison staff has further widened the international dimensions of the terror campaign. It was the first attack on an official Western contingent in the territory. It made nonsense once again — this time in a manner that will reverberate through the world — of SWAPO's claim that its campaign is a liberation struggle directed against security forces. It exposed that lie in the most blatant fashion, by singling out an American delegation that had been on a mission specifically connected with the peace-seeking initiative in the region. By that action, SWAPO has thrown into relief two opposing currents in southern Africa that it would doubtlessly have preferred to remain vague in the public mind.

The first, which it embodies, is an anarchist drive that would resolve the affairs of the subcontinent in a dispensation ruled by totalitarian force. Pitted against it, and personified by the two Americans who died of a terrorist bomb, is the subcontinental drive to create a new order of stability and peaceful coexistence as the essential basis for political and material progress. In the international effort to secure the second — the democratic solution — the obstacle posed by the first cannot be ignored. SWAPO remains as strongly committed as ever to terrorism as an instrument in advancing its goal of political power. Not only does it continue to refuse to take part in multiparty talks on southwest Africa's future, it also rejects a cease-fire agreement between South Africa and Angola, in terms of which southern Angola is to be kept clear of SWAPO forces. On his return last week after talks with leaders outside the country, Toivo ja Toivo said SWAPO would not be influenced by the agreement.

That agreement was a milestone, as was the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique, in the drive towards establishing a stable regional order. The United States had played an important part,through intensive negotiations in recent months with governments in southern Africa, in laying the foundations for those advances. Having done so, it presumably presented an obvious target to a movement whose instinct, when faced with opposition, is to try to terrorize the opponent into submission. However, the State Department has already declared that there is no intention of closing the liaison office that was established to observe the troop disengagement in southern Angola. Neither, it states, will it be deterred from attempting to bring about peace in southern Africa. In fact, all SWAPO has achieved with its act of desperation is a clearer drawing of the battle lines.

Buthelezi Discusses Nkomati Accord at Rally

MB161236 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 16 Apr 84 p 5

[By Anton Harber, political reporter]

[Text] The Nkomati Accord should teach black South Africans that it was stupid to have expected the people of Mozambique to sacrifice everything for them, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, chief minister of Kwazulu and president of Inkatha, said yesterday. Chief Buthelezi was addressing more than 10,000 people at a rally at Jabulani Amphitheatre, Soweto. The lively crowd gave Chief Buthelezi a tumultuous welcome and repeatedly interrupted his lengthy speech with singing, chanting, and ululating. Chief Buthelezi said he was dismayed at the bitterness many blacks had exhibited since the signing of the Nkomati Accord. There was a feeling in certain quarters that Mozambique had let South Africans down, but many people expected too much from their neighbors, he said.

"After two raids by the South African Defence Force in Mozambique, what did we expect President Machel to do?" he asked.

"Judging by the condemnations that have been expressed by some of our brothers both inside and outside South Africa, one would think President Machel and the people of Mozambique have not sacrificed as much as they have sacrificed for our liberation," he said. The important principles of self-help and self-reliance had not sunk in. "The liberation of South Africa is in our hands," he said. It was also a tragedy that whites were "lost in the political fantasy that the Nkomati Accord is a panacea for all the ills of South Africa," he said. During his speech, Chief Buthelezi quoted the jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela extensively and used Mandela's articles to support his participation in the homeland government. Chief Buthelezi also called for a truce between black organisations, so they could face the threat of the new constitution together. However, he strongly criticised the Congress of South Africa Students (Cosas) for its opposition to Inkatha. "I wonder if Cosas has learnt the lesson that should have been learnt at Gnoye. If we choose the path of black disunity... we will be overtaken by tragedy," he said.

Blacks needed to prepare for non-violent action, but cooperation between black organisations was necessary for this he said.

Labor Party To Use 'Politics of Persuasion'

MB161650 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1254 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] London, April 16, SAPA — The leader of the Labour Party, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, said in London today his party had accepted participation in the new tri-cameral constitution because it intended to destroy apartheid — and he set 5 years as the limit in which there had to be "a movement away from segregation and discrimination." If this did not happen, his party would pull out of the new deal, he told a press conference here. "We have not accepted the new constitution because it excludes blacks. But we are going to participate because we have moved away from the politics of protest into the politics of persuasion," he said.

"The Labour Party is going to demolish apartheid. This is certainly the beginning of the break-down. We will review the situation after 5 years." He said he was "hopeful" that the Immorality Act and the Mixed Marriages Act would be abolished by the time the constitution became effective — but these alone would not satisfy his party's requirement.

Mr Hendrickse said the choice that had faced his party had been to stay away and maintain the status quo, or participate and negotiate for reforms. "The proposals of the government must in no way be seen as being accepted by the Labour Party. In spite of all its inadequacies, not withstanding the built-in dominance of whites at this stage, I believe it must be seen as a point of departure rather than a place of arrival," he said. "We have to begin somewhere, and I am prepared to take the risks. I believe for the first time, people other than whites are participating in joint decision making. We, as a party, have come to realise the real bargaining and negotiating possibilities and power of the coloured people as a constituent element of the black community." The Labour Party leader visited London mainly to address a dinner last week held by the South Africa Club. But he has met representatives from the British Conservative, Labour, and Social Democrat parties,as well as businessmen with South African connections. He described his meetings as "encouraging" and said some people he had talked with had never before been told of his party's beliefs and objectives.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Appeals to Nation To Report Strangers

MB161816 Mbabane Television in Siswati 1630 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text]Our reporters, who have just returned from a meeting with the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, say the prime minister today appealed to the entire nation to report to the police whenever they see strangers that act suspiciously or any other unknown strangers. He said this following the shooting and killing of an innocent Royal Swaziland Police officer and the injuring of four others and a soldier today. The prime minister said the people involved in the shooting incidents over the weekend and today have confessed that they fled from Maputo. He added that it was distressing that those who sought refuge in the country have now broken the law by harboring and hiding these criminals and murderers. The prime minister said he wondered why the ANC has now suddenly decided to shoot at the country's police. The following is an excerpt of his speech:

[Begin Bhekimpi recording] I trust that those that are still in hiding will give themselves up to the police. If, however, they are ferreted out of the bush, they will be treated accordingly, as would be people found hiding in the bush. We trust that this will not happen and that they will turn themselves in to the police. If they want refuge, they must follow the rules set down for refugees. If they are in transit, they should report this fact to the law. No traveler, however, passes through another's territory carrying arms. In this instance, the traveler would be expected to report the fact that he had arms at the border before entering the territory and,if this is not acceptable to those in charge, leave them in their custody and travel without them.

My countrymen, in short, the Government of Swaziland has asked me to appeal to the nation to be alert. We hope that the United Nations will not ask us what has happened. Those UN personnel in charge of security will know that these recent events are not acceptable. We will hear from the United Nations if this is what they expect of those that seek refuge in foreign countries. We trust that they too will be taken aback by these events. In short, my countrymen, I want to ask those who have sought refuge in the country, now that it has been ascertained that they habor such criminals, are they deliberately breaking the rules governing their status in the country? If they have harbored or hidden these elements in the country, they have indeed contravened the conditions for their stay in the country. We will therefore regard them as criminals, too, notwithstanding the fact that they entered the country in an acceptable manner. In like manner, those Swazis who give refuge to these elements will be viewed in a bad light. All we are saying is that everyone in the country should be on their guard, regardless of whether they are Swazi or not.

We have heard that some strangers are found all over the country, some have even been found at the university. Where they emerge from no one knows. Is this the right way to treat strangers? We say: Those that habor these elements should examine themselves and question their conduct as patriots. If they do not regard themselves as true Swazis, then who are they? In Swazi custom, one does not habor a stranger without first reporting him to the authorities.

My countrymen, this is all that we want to lay before the nation. We want to appeal to the nation to be on the alert so that the country may progress in peace. This is what the government has asked me to say to the nation. Beginning today, all aliens will be sought out. If, however, you find them, bring them to the police. We want this country to be peaceful. We do not want strife. We merely want everybody in the country to live in peace. We do not want it said that we ill-treat our visitors and refugees. We hope that all will see that all that we have talked about so far is not a fabrication of our minds and that these things have actually occurred recently in our midst. Briefly, my countrymen, we hope that all have heard and that all those still in hiding will come forth and report themselves to the law. [end recording]

Defense Force Member Injured by Shrapnel

MB161904 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] A member of the Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force was recovering at the Good Shepherd Hospital in Siteki this afternoon after suffering severe injuries caused by shrapnel from a hand grenade which an ANC fugitive was trying to throw at him. The Army man, Mr Ben Sihlongonyane, was injured in the leg, arm, and back, as the grenade exploded and blew the ANC man to pieces at Mbhokojwana Store near Matsanjeni. An Army spokesman described as untrue reports that two Army personnel had been killed during the blast which took place as the Army was searching an undisclosed number of illegal immigrants for arms in the Lubombo District. Unconfirmed reports received late this afternoon said that the Royal Swaziland Police arrested two ANC women and an ANC man at a lecturer's house outside one of the training institutions in Mbabane. The reports also alleged that another suspected ANC man was arrested at the Swazi Plaza this afternoon.

Police Commissioner on Shootings

MB161939 Mbabane Television Service in Siswati 1630 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Police reports today said Assistant Superintendent Alton Dlamini, who was shot on Saturday in Zakhele, has been flown to a Johannesburg hospital for further treatment. A spokesman for the RFM Hospital in Manzini, where Assistant Superintendent Alton Dlamini has been receiving treatment, said he was much better yesterday and could converse even though he tired easily. The spokesman said he spoke intelligibly. It has, however, not yet been ascertained when Inspector Jabu Dlamini, who died in the Zakhele raid on Saturday, will be buried.

Yesterday, the commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi, commenting on the fatal shooting by the ANC of police inspector, Mr Jabu Dlamini, the critical wounding of Assistant Superintendent Alton Dlamini, and the shooting of three other police officers at Zakhele Township over the weekend, expressed deep concern and dismay at what he called the cold-blooded murder of the policeman. Mr Msibi also said he was still wondering why the ANC had suddenly decided to start shooting at the police who had never before opened fire on members of the ANC.

He told Swaziland Television Broadcasting Service [STBC] that five men were arrested in Dalriach over the weekend, and that two others armed with an AK-47 rifle and hand grenades were also apprehended at the Happy Valley Motel near Lobamba. A senior police spokesman told STBC last week that most of the arrested men would appear in court to face charges of unlawful possession of arms and entering the country illegally. Amos Dlamini also appealed to the nation to report to the police any suspicious foreigners. He could not provide the date of the men's appearances in court. In another development, the commissioner of police declined to give the total number of ANC members arrested so far, but reliable sources say they number well over 30.

ZAMBIA

Foreign Minister Concerned About SDAR, Chad Issues

MB121246 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The foreign affairs minister, Prof Lameck Goma, has expressed the country's concern at delays to solve two of the continent's major problems: the SDAR and Chad issues. Speaking at a dinner in honor of visiting Cape Verde Foreign Minister Silvino Manuel da Luz at the Hotel Intercontinental last night, Professor Goma said failure to solve the problems in the Sahara and Chad, which dogged the OAU in its 18th and 19th summits, continued to be a great concern to the country. He called upon the Republic of Morocco to respect the decision of the OAU on the SDAR and implement its decision which calls for a referendum. He said Zambia will continue to support the SDAR under the leadership of the Polisario Front until the problem is solved. On Chad, Professor Goma said there is an urgent need to resolve the problem so that the people of that country can enjoy peace that has eluded them since their independence in 1960.

Security Subcommittee To Discuss Border Problems

MB161306 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The security subcommittee of the Zambia-Zaire joint permanent commission is to meet in Kitwe next week to discuss border problems affecting the two countries. Copperbelt Provincial Political Secretary Pickson Chitambala, making the announcement in Ndola today, said the meeting would also consider violations of territorial integrity which have taken place since the last joint commission meeting held in Kitwe. The subcommittee, which meets on 23 April, would submit a report to the fifth summit to be held in Shaba, Zaire, sometime in June this year.

ZIMBABWE

Banana Congratulates Soviet Leader on Election

MB170757 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, has congratulated Comrade Konstantin Chernenko on his election as state president of the USSR. The president says in his congratulatory message that the government and people of Zimbabwe extend to Comrade Chernenko good wishes on his accepting an onerous task with a heavy responsibility. He wishes him success in his endeavor to seek solutions to the challenging problems that face not only the Soviet Union, but also the world at large. Part of the message reads: My government looks forward to working with your government in the furtherance of the cooperation and friendship which exists between our two countries. I avail myself of this opportunity to wish you every success in this important task which the people of the Soviet Union have entrusted to you. Accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest esteem.

Mugabe Discusses RSA Approach for Talks

MB170705 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Robert Mugabe says South Africa has approached his government for talks at ministerial level to discuss a possible nonaggression pact. Speaking to journalists in Harare, the Zimbabwean prime minister said he did not think such a deal was in the interests of his country. He says although South Africa had not asked specifically for the signing of such a pact, he says Pretoria wanted talks at ministerial level. Zimbabwe has consistently refused in the past to enter into any such agreement.

Mugabe Says Clique in Party Using Tribalism

MB161826 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today announced that the ZANU-PF National Congress in August will spell out the party's principles and establish a leadership code. Comrade Mugabe told the news conference in Harare that once a leadership code has been established, those leaders who fail to comply with its requirement will be purged. The guiding principle in the formulation of the code will be Marxism-Leninism. Comrade Mugabe said the congress will also be expected to redefine how socialism should be achieved in Zimbabwe. He said he is very disappointed with cases of corruption in government and in the private sector. He said corruption must continue to be exposed. The prime minister announced the existence of a clique, which he did not name, that is unscrupulously trying to use tribalism to rise to senior positions in the party. Comrade Mugabe said the declaration of rights, constitution, is all respected and negates the sovereignty of the nation. [sentence as heard]. However, he said amending the Constitution cannot start now, but possibly in the seventh year of independence.

Mugabe Responds to Atrocity Allegations

PM161444 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Apr 84 p 5

[David Graves dispatch: "Mugabe Praises Forces in Curfew Area]

[Text] Bulawayo [no date given] — Mr Robert Mugabe has responded to allegation by the Roman Catholic Church and first published in *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH* that Zimbabwean troops had carried out atrocities and caused mass starvation in south Matabeleland. The prime minister told me he thought his security forces had performed a "wonderful duty" in the area, and he launched a personal attack on the Catholic bishop who had made the allegations. He defended the strict curfew on the 4,000-square-mile region, south of Bulawayo, because many of minority Ndebele tribe locals were helping armed rebels. And he accused the Rt Rev Henry Karlen, the Catholic bishop of Bulawayo, and other priests who made allegations, of worshipping a mammon of their own in Mr Joshua Nkomo, the opposition ZAPU leader, and of misleading other church officials.

Mr Mugabe claimed: "There is peace to a very great extent in the region. The area of discord is really a minute one. There are people abroad who want to picture the whole of Matabaleland as supporting dissidents, which is not the case.

"Our case is made worse by the Bishops who want to magnify things and who, in some way, condone dissident activity." He said many of the rebels were former guerrillas belonging to Mr Nkomo's Zipra forces who had fled to Botswana. There they had been recruited by South Africa who retrained them before infiltrating them back into Zimbabwe. However, he promised that his government would take action against soldiers responsible for atrocities if the Church could prove where they had taken place and who was responsible. Mr Mugabe, wearing a green safari suit and surrounded by senior ministers, saw me on Saturday in Bulawayo before addressing a youth rally in the city, the provincial capital of Matabeleland. I had asked him to respond to the allegations made recently in a 4-page report by Bishop Karlan. It accused his troops of carrying out a policy of starvation, beatings, torture, rape, and murder. The allegations had arisen after the government imposed a strict curfew in south Matabeleland on Feb 3, covering 516,000 people, mostly members of the Ndebele tribe who are traditional supporters of Mr Nkomo.

No shops were allowed to open, transport was halted, and a strict curfew was imposed by the estimated 15,000 troops who were drafted in. They included members of the North Korean-trained 5th Brigade who have been accused of carrying out most of the atrocities. The curfew was relaxed last Monday to operate from dusk till dawn. Stores were open, and buses and cars could enter the area. But journalists are still not allowed to enter the area, and the only news to come out of the region has come from Church missionaries working at schools and hospitals. They have told priests that it is impossible to know how many people have died, but the figure could run into hundreds. The allegations follow similar charges made by Catholic bishops in Zimbabwe last year. Then they accused troops of killing hundreds of civilians in another crackdown against anti-government rebels in north Matabeleland. Mr Mugabe said that he had visited Matabeleland to find out "on the spot" what the situation was like in the curfew area, as well as addressing two youth rallies of his ruling ZANU (PF) party.

"I am happy the operations are going well, that successes have been scored, and that dissident activity has been stemmed, but not quite eradicated, because some of the dissidents have gone out of the curfew area into hiding," he declared.

"The exercise is to establish perfect peace in this area so our programme of development can get underway without interruption so that the ordinary people, especially in the rural areas, can go about their day-to-day duties without interference or disruption from the dissidents and I am very happy that the task we set ourselves to accomplish is getting accomplished. I pay tribute to our forces derived from the National Army, the police force, and our security organ (Central Intelligence Organization). They are performing a wonderful duty." I asked him about the renewed allegations from the Catholic Church about atrocities and starvation in the area. Mr Mugabe replied: "The bishops have talked, and talked variously. We have had a document from the bishops of Matabeleland, all the bishops in the area, and last week the Catholic bishops also sent us a document. Previously to that Fr Gough (a Catholic priest in Harare who accused the government of waging a campaign of mass genocide) had his own say.

"Their holy of holies are all talking about the situation. We wish them success in their prayers and in the running of the churches, but the task of running the government in this area is one for me and not one for the churches. They may express concern about the situation, or the situation as a whole. We allow them to do that. Fr Gough said what he wanted to say and felt intimidated. He seemed to have been shivering as he made his statement. He talked about the fact that he could be intimidated but no one has ever intimidated any priest, or any bishop, for saying anything. But we want them to say the truth, to tell the people the truth. Their allegations and their documents, which say what they have been told, give some very fantastic stories and we need to trace the persons involved. We have yet to get to the root of the stories they tell."

"Now that we have relaxed the curfew, the bishops will be called upon, or their representatives, to lead us to the areas or to give us evidence where these atrocities took place. They need not tell us who says what but they can indicate the areas in which these atrocities took place and we would be very happy as a government to get to the truth of the story." I told him that a 4-page document had been passed to Mr Nathan Shammurariwa, minister of information, on April 2 by Bishop Karlen, giving detailed information about the allegations of atrocities and starvation.

Mr Mugabe replied: "When we carry out an operation, a warlike operation, there must be restrictions of some sort and we don't apologise for having restricted the population within certain areas and preventing them from moving around the area at given times. That is what the curfew is meant to do. We also had to ensure that the supplies that went into the area were not given to dissidents. As a whole my government has spent millions feeding people in all drought-stricken areas of the country and Matabeleland had really a larger share of this relief than other areas. We cannot let our people starve to death. But we also recognize that the dissidents have been sustained by the community here, which is ZAPU-orientated. They have been giving some of this food to the dissidents. That is why we had to impose some restrictions. Not to get them to starve to death but to get to assess which communities were really sponsoring dissidents and giving them succour." I told him that the Church had agreed with the government commitment to uphold law and order,but had alleged his troops, particularly members of the 5th Brigade, were taking action against the civilian population instead of the rebels.

Mr Mugabe replied: "You have got to distinguish between the civilian population that is law-abiding and that part of the civilian population which lends support to the dissidents. Bishop Karlen and some of his priests are supporters of ZAPU. They have chosen to counteract government action because its political effect is to neutralize those activities of ZAPU which sponsors dissidents.

"Dissidents need not necessarily be armed people. Civilians can become dissidents as well and they all pray to the super God, Nkomo." He continued: "We are studying the documents, nevertheless, very seriously and now that the situation has relaxed we will certainly be going to the bishops and ask: Where did the killings occur? Take us to those areas. We will be going to their missions and wanting them to indicate, but not intimidating them, where the atrocities took place. If they have no information, then fine, but if they indicate what has happened, sure we will take action."

Asked about allegations that the government had not reacted to the Church accusations, Mr Mugabe raised his voice and said: "We do not respond to scriptures but according to given political principles. It is not when the bishop sneezes that we all catch a cold. No, we are a government and we run our affairs as we see fit. We run our government according to the policies of the government. The fact that bishops speak should not get us running around. What for? It is one of the statements we have received. Other citizens have made similar statements. Nkomo has made his own statement and others have written to us to say can we do this quietly." Asked if his visit to Matabeleland would ease tension in the area, the prime minister replied: "I don't know whether there is any tension. Everybody's going about their business very happily. There is no tension here (in Bulawayo). There perhaps was tension in the curfew area because of the nature of the operation, but that has been relaxed. There is food in the shops and relief programmes will continue."

Asked if he was happy with the way his troops had handled the situation, Mr Mugabe said: "I am very happy about the way they have gone about things. We plan that if the situation improves then greater relaxation of the curfew will occur.

"But if any area gets bad again I can assure you we will impose a curfew again. The security forces have my instructions to reimpose the curfew. We cannot have one part of our country, no matter how small, deciding it can act as if it was not part of the whole country." He added that there was only a little number who had arms and were drawing the world's attention. "We cannot underestimate one man armed with a gun. He can destroy peace in a given area. How many more of these peace-loving people, the farmers for example, have to be killed?" Against that background the forces had scored very telling successes against dissidents with upward of 35 of them being killed. There were two categories of rebels. One he described as Super ZANU, "which has had the imprint of South Africa on it," and the other contained genuine ZAPU dissidents. Mr Mugabe added: "But both camps pray to almighty Nkomo and they live by his promises and by his posture of a promised land. Where this promised land is, I don't know. They have yet to cross the Red Sea."

Korean Reunification Hailed at Reception

MB151310 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, says efforts by imperialist forces, who are bent on dividing the people of Korea, will not succeed. Speaking at a reception in Harare last night to mark the 72d birthday of the leader of the DPRK, Comrade Kim Il-song, Comrade Mangwende said Zimbabwe views the reunification of Korea as a sacred one which entails the recovery of national sovereignty. In reply, the DPRK ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Yi Wonkuk noted that the division of Korea into north and south is due to the machinations of American aggressors. He said his government feels that the tripartate talks between the United States and the two Koreas should adopt a nonaggression attitude between the two divisions.

Briefs

New Cuban Ambassador— The People's Republic of Cuba has appointed Comrade Alfonso Fraga as its new ambassador to Zimbabwe. Comrade Fraga presented his credentials to the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, at State House this morning. The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, was present at the ceremony. Comrade Fraga replaces Comrade Iiofilo Acosta, who left for Cuba last year. Comrade Fraga was chief of the socialist department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before taking up his new appointment. [Text] [Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Apr 84 MB]